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Japan

Prime Minister Pledges To Back Chinese Reforms

OW2905042791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told a visiting senior Chinese official Wednesday that Japan pledges to assist Beijing with its new five-year economic plan unveiled in March.

"I plan to support China's policies of reform and openness. We should continue to discuss specific forms of cooperation," Kaifu told Gu Mu, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Kaifu said that he was looking forward to a planned trip to China this summer, which he said would help promote bilateral relations.

The visit would be the first by a Japanese prime minister since the 1989 Tiananmen Square suppression of prodemocracy activists, which strained bilateral relations.

Tokyo signaled that it was ready to restore ties a year ago when Kaifu announced he would unfreeze a massive yen-based loan to China put on hold following the crackdown.

Gu said he expects Kaifu's visit to play a major role in boosting ties between the two countries.

The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference serves as an advisory group to the Communist Party.

SDF Minesweepers Enter Rashid Port in Dubayy

OW2705210291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, May 27 KYODO—A task force of four Japanese minesweepers and two support ships entered Rashid Port in Dubayy of the United Arab Emirates on Monday following a four-week voyage from Japan.

The minesweepers are expected to start removing Iraqi-dispersed mines in the Persian Gulf in early June, Japanese officials said.

Defense Chief Ikeda Urges SDF-U.S. Cooperation

OW2905041391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Japan's Defense Agency chief on Wednesday outlined guidelines for Self-Defense Forces (SDF) programs for fiscal 1992, including promotion of cooperation between SDF and the United States in technical research and development, agency sources said.

Director General Yukihiko Ikeda revealed the guidelines to his aides and defense-related officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The guidelines will be the basis of defense budget proposals for fiscal 1992, beginning next April 1.

For the second year of the 1991-1995 medium-term defense plan, Ikeda called on chiefs of staff in the ground, air and maritime Self-Defense Forces and the technology research chief to draft details of the 1992 defense programs with the aim of promoting cooperation with the U.S. in technical research and development and with a labor-saving policy to meet an expected decrease in Self- Defense personnel, the sources said.

The guidelines also include purchasing of multiple rocket launch sytems, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACs) and search [as received] experiments.

Ikeda called specifically on the ground force to complete ground-to-sea missile and ground-to-ground rocket systems and on the Maritime Defense Force to raise capability in destroyers, antisubmarine patrol aircraft and minesweepers. He also urged the Air Force to increase AWACs and search experiment capability, the sources said.

With the number of SDF members likely to decrease in the future, Ikeda instructed the Technical Research Department to study ways to save labor while urging them to promote closer relations with the U.S. in joint development projects for the next generation support fighters known as FSX.

Steel Pipe Exports to Soviet Union Resumed

OW2705111591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 Kyodo—Japan's three major steel makers have resumed their production and shipments of steel pipes for the Soviet Union after the Soviets finally guaranteed payment for their import, company officials said Monday.

Japan's Soviet-bound steel pipe exports have been on hold due to the delay in issuing letters of credit (L/CS) by the Soviet Union.

The officials said earlier in the day the Soviets have issued L/CS covering part of the contracts already agreed for the second quarter, adding that they have, as a result, reopened production lines for exports to the country.

An L/C is an instrument or document issued by a bank, guaranteeing the payment of customer drafts up to a stated amount for a specified period.

Japanese companies have been increasingly reluctant to export to the Soviet Union, as Moscow's lack of hard currency has created massive payment arrears for Japanese exports. Such overdue payments for major traders alone are estimated at 440-450 million dollars at the end of March, according to an industry association.

The Soviet Union has failed to issue L/CS covering most of its planned imports of 150,000 tons of seamless and other types of steel pipes for the April-June period, proposing instead to issue letters of guarantee (L/GS), which allow the buyers a longer delay for cash payment.

This led Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Kawasaki Steel Corp., and NKK Corp. to halt shipments to the Soviets, while another big steel producer, Nippon Steel Corp., continued production.

To break the impasse, Japanese steel makers and related trading houses dispatched a mission to the Soviet Union in mid-May and successfully secured a pledge by the Soviets that they will make efforts to issue L/CS by the end of the month.

The officials said they expect the Soviets to issue more L/CS to cover most of the planned shipments before long.

G-7 'Likely' To Agree on Soviet Atomic Aid

OW2805102691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—Leaders of seven major industrialized countries are likely to hammer out in the upcoming London summit an agreement to provide the Soviet Union with technical assistance for the management of atomic power plants, Japanese Government sources said Tuesday.

The leaders of the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the host nation Britain are considering offering technical cooperation in safety checks on atomic power plants, the sources said.

Cooperation in protection against radiation, observation of the environment, and handling of radioactive waste are also being considered.

The July 15-17 summit is expected to express the participants' support for the Soviet Union for environmental and humanistic reasons, given that accidents at atomic power plants in the Soviet Union will also affect neighboring western countries, the sources said.

Concern over atomic power plant accidents has been strong not only in the Soviet Union but in Eastern Europe since the Chernobyl disaster in April 1986, despite Moscow's claim to have carried out safety checks since the accident.

Some East European countries accept Soviet-made plants.

The Tokyo summit in May 1986 called for freer information on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. This will be the second time the summit has discussed issues concerning Soviet atomic power plants.

The Soviet Union is the world's third largest atomic power plant nation, having 50 operating plants nationwide and an overall output of 38.35 million kilowatts. Among the 50 plants, 16 are of the same type as the one at Chernobyl and there are six others of even older types.

Japan has already made clear that it would provide technical cooperation to the Soviet Union.

During President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit in April, Tokyo and Moscow concluded agreements concerning aid for the people whose health was damaged in the Chernobyl disaster and to ensure that atomic power from Japan-Soviet cooperation is used for peaceful ends.

Official: Gorbachev Not To Attend G-7 Summit

OW2905124991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev may meet Western leaders before or after the July summit of seven major industrial countries in London, a top foreign ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, clearly denied that Gorbachev would participate in the July 15-17 summit of leaders from Japan, the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy.

He said, however, that the summit countries have discussed whether it is appropriate to set a meeting with Gorbachev in London before or after the summit.

The Seven understand that consensus on the issue is important and it is not known what conclusion will be reached, he said.

Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu of Japan and Brian Mulroney of Canada said Tuesday they are agreeable to receiving Gorbachev as a guest in the latter part of the London summit.

Kaifu told reporters after a meeting with Mulroney that if the summit countries agree to invite Gorbachev as a guest after the main business of the meeting, "I certainly would not object to that. I think it would be a good opportunity to listen to Mr. Gorbachev."

Mulroney said at the same time, "I think that Prime Minister Kaifu and I are in agreement that if President Gorbachev is invited, neither of us are opposed."

Nakayama, Hun Sen Plan Hanoi Meeting in Jun

OW2705123891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will hold talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Ho Chi Minh City during his official visit to Vietnam in mid-June, informed sources said Monday.

The sources said the talks are now being considered for Nakayama's June 10-14 visit to Vietnam, the first high-level visit to that country since its reunification in 1975.

They will represent the highest level contact between Japan and the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh Government since Hun Sen met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in June 1990 during Tokyo's hosting of peace talks among the four warring Cambodian factions.

Foreign Ministry officials were reluctant to comment on Nakayama's planned meeting with Hun Sen, but they did not deny it is a possibility.

Japan, which has assumed a leading mediatory role in the Cambodian conflict, does not recognize the Phnom Penh Government, officially focusing its diplomatic support on the tripartite resistance coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

But Japan's ties with Phnom Penh have warmed considerably since August 1989, when then Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka met twice with Hun Sen in Paris. Japanese diplomats have since been dispatched to Phnom Penh on several occasions.

Last April, Hun Sen paid a second visit to Japan for what officials said was a medical checkup.

During his weeklong stay, the Cambodian premier held several sessions of informal talks with senior foreign ministry officials, which were later described as "extremely frank, intensive, and in- depth."

Nakayama's talks with Hun Sen will follow shortly after he and leaders of the three other Cambodian factions meet in Jakarta on June 2-4 in an effort to compromise over their differences.

Nakayama is expected to urge Hun Sen to accept a peace plan drafted by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council aimed at ending the 12-year civil war between Phnom Penh forces and three guerrilla groups.

The peace plan calls for a U.N.-supervised ceasefire and disarmament of troops. It also envisions the world body extensively assisting an interim government in administering Cambodia until national elections.

Japan has worked out a number of "informal proposals" intended to sugarcoat provisions of the plan deemed unacceptable by Phnom Penh.

Phnom Penh has called for stronger assurances that the Khmer Rouge, which is by far the strongest of the three resistance groups, cannot carry out a power grab by exploiting the U.N. plan's loosely-enforceable provisions for a disarmament and demobilization of troops.

It also wants the peace plan to explicitly castigate the Khmer Rouge for its actions while in power from 1975 to 78. During the Khmer Rouge's attempt to radically restructure Cambodian society, many hundreds of thousands of Cambodians died from torture, execution, famine, and disease.

Japan has proposed that any political party formed during the post-ceasefire interim period which conducts military activities deemed inconsistent with the peace agreement should be deprived of the right to take part in the elections.

Japan has also proposed forming a special committee composed of Cambodians and U.N. representatives "to explore concrete measures to ensure the non-return of the policies and practices of the past."

The Japanese initiative has yet to receive clear support from any of the four factions or their main supporting countries, but foreign ministry officials gave assurances that it is "still alive."

U.N. Official Urges New Ainu Legislation

OW2905021491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1527 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 (KYODO)—A United Nations official on Tuesday urged the Japanese Government to bring its laws pertaining to the indigenous Ainu in line with current international human rights standards.

Erica Irene Daes, head of the U.N. working committee on indigenous peoples, said she raised the issue of Ainu rights in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Ministers Hisashi Owada and Kozo Watanabe.

A government committee began considering new legislation to replace the 1899 Hokkaido Aboriginal Protection Act two years ago, but has not yet completed its work.

The Utari Affairs Council, made up of Ainu representatives, wants to replace the 1899 act with a law that would help fight discrimination against Ainus in education, employment, and marriage.

It also wants the government to fully address the issue of aboriginal land rights and provide funds to promote Ainu culture, and involvement in policymaking.

The 1899 act was aimed at providing agricultural land to the Ainu and speeding assimilation of the native inhabitants of the Japanese archipelago into mainstream Japanese society.

The law has undergone several revisions since it was enacted.

Daes, here at the invitation of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido, later attended a symposium it sponsored on the 1993 international year of indigenous people.

Ainu leader Giichi Nomura told the seminar that the delay in preparing the new Ainu legislation could be a signal that their plight is being forgotten by the government.

"We have to avoid the situation where 50 years from now my great grandchildren will still be fighting to close the gap," in economic and educational levels, Nomura told the symposium attended by some 300 people.

A 1986 survey conducted by the Hokkaido government showed that the living standard of the 24,000 Ainu living on Hokkaido lagged behind the national average. A majority of Ainu surveyed said they also believed racism still exists in Japanese society.

Nomura also said Ainu history needs better coverage in the nation's school textbooks.

Daes, accompanied by G. S. Alfredsson, of the U.N. Center for Human Rights, spent last week in Hokkaido meeting with Ainu residents and government officials.

U.N. human rights officials are in the process of drafting a world declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Leaves Tokyo for Seoul

OW2305045791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi left Tokyo on Thursday for Seoul after a three-day visit to Japan.

While in Tokyo, Abdullah met Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and discussed bilateral and other issues.

Their discussions centered on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's proposal for an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), envisioned as a loose consultative forum among the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea to promote trade.

Abdullah, who stopped over in Thailand before coming to Japan, will visit South Korea and Luxembourg before returning home June 2.

EC Delegate Says British Nissan Cars European

OW2805143991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 28 KYODO—The leader of a European Community (EC) parliamentarians delegation assured his Japanese colleagues Tuesday that Nissan vehicles manufactured in Britain would be considered European, and would not fall inside a quota being discussed on Japan's share of the import market.

The European Parliament is certain to back the European Commission, the EC's administration, and vote in favor of regarding made-in-Britain Japanese vehicles as local products because 80 percent of their parts are obtained from the region, Bernhard Salzer said at the close of the 12th Japan-EC parliamentarians conference.

Former Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, head of the Japanese delegation, heaved a sigh of relief and called the prediction "good news."

Salzer predicted the EC would approve a six to seven year transition period during which imported Japanese vehicles would be limited to 15 percent of the EC market so European manufacturers can become more competitive.

The average rate of market penetration in Europe for Japanese vehicles is over 10 percent. Toyota and Honda are slated to start assembling vehicles in Britain in the near future.

Salzer, a member of the European People's Party elected from Germany, said the restrictions would be only temporary.

"If the European car producers are not able to produce cars that will be bought by consumers and be competitive with Japanese cars, then the European car industry won't have a future," Salzer told a joint news conference at the close of the parley.

"But I'm absolutely sure that the European car industry will have a future," he said.

Kuranari said the Japanese parliamentarians expressed concern during the discussions that Europe would put up protectionist walls after it forms a unified market next year.

Salzer said he concurs with EC Commission President Jacques Delors who recently visited Japan saying he expects substantial changes in access to the Japanese market.

"Europe will be as open to Japan as Japan is to Europe," he said.

Among the grievances Salzer cited are achieving the same access to Japan's aerospace market enjoyed by U.S. industry, and ending dumping of semiconductors. He said there are some 80 other minor issues.

He said the disputes would be dealt with by a high-level task force proposed by Delors during his visit here last week.

The politicians agreed during the free discussion on economic, political, scientific, and social issues to increase the frequency of the now annual conference—budgets permitting, to twice a year.

They also agreed to hold a conference to promote cultural exchange.

French Prime Minister's Statements Protested

OW2905140591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Japan told France on Wednesday that a series of recent anti-Japanese statements from its new Prime Minister Edith Cresson are "inappropriate" and harmful to relations between the two countries.

The head of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, Nagao Hyodo, summoned French Ambassador Loic Hennekinne and told him it was difficult to suppress surprise over the statements which he described as "inappropriate to the development of Franco- Japanese relations."

The French envoy replied that he would convey the Japanese protest to his home government in Paris, Japanese officials said.

Cresson, who assumed her post two weeks ago and is the first woman prime minister in French history, is known for championing a firm stand against Japanese trade incursions.

In television interviews on May 16 and 19, Cresson said France is able to act in concert with Japan provided Japan does not behave like a "predator" and that the Japanese system is "another universe which wants to conquer."

Hyodo told Hennekinne that Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had sent Cresson a congratulatory telegram after she became prime minister.

In the cable, Kaifu told Cresson he looks forward to the opportunity to meet and exchange opinions with a view to strengthening Franco-Japanese relations.

Hyodo told Hennekinne that a continuation of such statements by Cresson could lead to misunderstanding between the peoples of both countries and cause a deterioration in friendly relations.

While Cresson was minister for European affairs in 1990, she described Japan as an "enemy" during a visit by Kaifu.

Cresson once said Japan "has an absolute will to conquer the world."

Australia's Evans Seeks DPRK Accord Signature

OW2705185891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 27 May 91

[By William May]

[Text] Kyoto, May 27 KYODO—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans called on all nations Monday to pressure North Korea into signing a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Speaking to a session of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, which opened here Monday, Evans pointed out that North Korea has continued to operate "an unsafeguarded reactor and persistently refuses to conclude the safeguards agreement."

Later in a press conference, Evans told reporters further pressure could be applied to Pyongyang with "an appropriate resolution" at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting scheduled for next month.

Pyongyang has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but refuses to comply with international inspection standards for its nuclear facilities.

North Korea has maintained the facilities are nuclear power plants, but the U.S. insists the three sites outside of Pyongyang are being used to develop nuclear weapons.

While refusing to open the sites to inspection, Pyongyang continues to insist it is threatened by U.S. nuclear weapons allegedly located in South Korea.

Japan, which has just completed a third round of talks with Pyongyang to normalize relations, has urged throughout the negotiations that North Korea comply with the international accords.

Speaking of the four-day exchange of opinions among nearly 100 disarmament experts from 37 nations, Evans noted the conference underlines the "broad agenda" of disarmament issues confronting governments today.

Among these are regional concerns, transfers of weapons technology, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and the costs and side-effects of implementing disarmament.

Evans added, however, the post-cold war and post-Gulf war situation provides the world with a "window of opportunity" to pursue arms reductions strategies after decades of unmatched arms buildup.

"The time to act is now, before governments slip back into old habits," he said.

The foreign minister said he was happy to see Japan begin to take an active part in international disarmament efforts and added Australia "applauds" Tokyo's decision to tie economic development assistance to a recipient nation's arms acquisition record.

Central Bank Governor Views Economic Situation

OW2905083191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tokyo, May 29 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno reiterated his stance Wednesday to stick to the current tight monetary policy so prices will be further brought under control.

Speaking at a regular press conference, Mieno said, "There is definitely no change in our stance of monitoring the effect of the past policies."

Local newspapers recently reported the Japanese central bank, satisfied with stabilizing prices, is poised to cut during June the official discount rate by about 0.5 to 0.75 percentage point.

The key lending rate, following five rounds of past hikes in the course of the bank's antiinflationary battle, now stands at 6 percent per annum.

The central bank chief acknowledged prices are stabilizing, evident in the fact Japan's domestic wholesale prices for April dropped 0.1 percent from the previous month for the first time in almost one and a half years.

But Mieno said the figures do not necessarily mean prices are peaking.

"Given the continually tight labor and product markets, a weak yen, and crude oil prices which are resisting further falls, we have to keep a watchful eye on prices," he said.

Asked about the foreign exchange rate, Mieno voiced hope the market "will reflect Japan's economic fundamentals and thus move in favor of the yen."

Commenting on the economy, which has entered its 54th month of growth, the central bank governor said that despite a slower growth rate, the economy remains on an expansionary course.

Asked if the current boom will exceed the record 57-month economic expansion in the second half of the 1960s, Mieno said he does not care about whether it will or not.

"The important thing is to keep the economy afloat as long as possible. And to this end, stable prices are vital," he said.

Mieno also said financial results of Japanese companies for the year ended March 31 are not bad, though lofty interest rates, last year's stock market debacle, and costlier crude oil bit into their profits.

Turning to the banking industry, which saw steep earnings declines and a series of management reshuffles, and salary cuts at scandal-tainted banks, Mieno said the hardship is partly a result of their profit-oriented management during the go-go years of the 1980s.

"They failed to pay due attention to the soundness of their management," he said, adding that their recent efforts to transform themselves into healthier institutes were not sufficient.

Mieno also said bursting the speculative bubble in asset prices born of historic low interest rates over the last decade is one of the goals of his bank's monetary policies.

"Fulfilling this will be necessary for the medium-term prosperity of the Japanese economy," he said.

North Korea

South Defector Gives Impression of Kaesong City

SK2505234291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 25 May 91

["Strength of the Nation Desirous of Reunification Can Never Be Broken, Declares Young Defector"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—The strength of the nation desirous of reunification can never be broken, declared Kang Tae-song, a youth who was an employee of the Medical Insurance Association in Kangjin County, South Cholla Province, before coming over to the northern half of the country.

Giving his impressions of Kaesong, he said: I can hardly repress my admiration at the fact that Kaesong has turned into a modern light industrial city and a city of culture after it came to the embrace of the DPRK and the people all enjoy a happy life to their heart's satisfaction. The day of reunification when they will share this happiness with those in the South will surely come.

He was deeply moved to see the Koryo Museum, the Pakyon Pleasure Ground and other historical sites in the city, saying: National cultural heritages are well preserved in their original state in the northern half of the country.

After going round the Kaesong Export Embroidery Factory, the Kaesong Porcelain Factory, the Kaesong Koryo Insam Wine Distillery and other factories in the city, I could get better understanding of the real state of the North's self-sustaining economy when I saw that they are expanding factories and streamlining the equipment with their own technique and efforts.

Reading the letters "tongil" (reunification) here and there in Kaesong City such as "Tongil House", "Tongil Street" and "Tongil Bridge", could keenly feel how ardently the Kaesong citizens desire reunification, Kang Tae-song said. No matter how desperately the Americans and the South Korean authorities may try to divide our nation into two they can never overpower the strength of the people in the North and the South who desire reunification, he stressed.

Dailies View Deaths of Students in South

SK2805122691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 28 May 91

["Papers Denounce Puppets for Murder of One More Patriot Student"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist police on May 25 committed a fatal beating of a third-year woman student Kim Kui-chong of Sungkyunkwan University in a demonstration in Seoul. On the other hand, the fascist police fired a tear gas canister at a first year woman student Choe Sok-hui of Yogang University on the head, leaving her in a critical condition.

Recalling that ten odd persons committed self-immolation in protest against the murderous government of the fascist clique after the murder of student Kang Kyong-tae papers here today say that such traitor to the nation and fascist murderer as the No Tae-u ruling group that drove so many students and people to death in a matter of one month is without an equal.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst points out:

Dismayed at the flames of the South Korean people's fierce fight for national reunification against the United States and dictatorship, the No Tae-u ruling group is running about in man-killing, discarding the last shred of conscience and reason as a human being. It has mobilized the entire police, the "Security Planning Board", the "Secret Affairs Command" and "Reserve Forces" and, as if it were not enough, is weaving a plot to hurl even the regular Armed Forces of the puppet army into the crackdown on the people.

They are also replacing the puppet prime minister and other "cabinet" officials with fascist elements of worse type in a bid to deceive the people and raise the "efficiency" of repression.

This reveals the criminal intention to bridge over the crisis of the ramshackle fascist rule and maintain power by stifling the people's desire for independence, democracy and reunification with an unheard-of fascist mailed-fist policy.

The fascist ruling group would make no scruple of staging the second and the third Kwangju bloodbath in the land of South Korea for the "security" of its "power".

The developments urge the South Korean people to be awakened. With No Tae-u left alone, the South Korean people cannot get rid of the present-day bloodshed nor can they free themselves from the slavery imposed upon them by the fascist dictatorship.

The No Tae-u fascist ruling group indifferent to the country and the nation and bereft of reason must be driven out of power forthwith.

Official Sends Letter to South Teachers Union

SK2805104191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—Choe Kum-sun, chairman of the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Educational and Cultural Workers of Korea, Monday sent over radio a letter to Yun Yong-kyu, chairman of the National Teachers Union (Chongyojo) of South Korea, on the occasion of the second anniversary of its formation.

The formation of Chongyojo by South Korean conscientious teachers two years ago, the letter noted, was a praiseworthy patriotic determination to achieve democracy in society and education and national reunification even under the grim fascist dictatorship.

All members of Chungyojo, firmly united as one with conviction of the correctness of their activities, have bravely pushed their way through a thorny path, the letter said, and continued:

No force in South Korea can stamp out the existence of Chongyojo which has conducted for genuine education, democracy and national reunification and damage the growing dignity of Chongyojo.

We express the expectation that the entire members of Chongyojo will continue their vigorous struggle with hope for the future to realise their noble will for genuine education and democracy.

In particular, we hope that August 15 "pan-national rally of educators for reunification" will certainly open as initiated by Chongyojo so that educators in the North and the South may have a historical meeting and raise a curtain of a reun...cation festival together.

To this end, we honestly propose to meet with delegates of your organization in Panmunjom or other convenient places at a convenient time for you.

South's Cabinet Reshuffle 'Deceptive Drama'

SK2905072491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—No Tae-u concluded the much advertised "cabinet shakeup" by changing four "ministers" following the replacement of the "prime minister" with another.

Like the change of the puppet prime minister, that of "ministers" also was a deceptive drama to bridge over the crisis and put fresh muscles into the dictatorship, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says, and continues:

This is well illustrated, first of all, by the scale and objects of the "cabinet shakeup".

No Tae-u, ignoring public demands for the "general resignation of the cabinet", changed only four "ministers", leaving the "home minister," the "chief of the security planning board", the "minister of defence" and other underlings directly involved in repressive and murderous atrocities. This alone is enough to show that No's "cabinet reshuffle" is a mere camouflage to deceive public opinion.

The records of the new "ministers" are also illustrative.

Chong Won-sik, "acting prime minister", is a fascist element who had taken the lead in the crackdown upon the "national teachers' union" and campuses. Kim Ki-chun, new "minister of justice", is a fascist element of worst type who had held the post of "prosecutor general". And the new "minister of finance," "minister of health and social affairs" and "minister of energy and resources" are No Tae-u's faithful servants who had zealously backed the dictatorial rule of the "Sixth Republic" and are publicly branded as "hard-liners".

Despite the vociferous advertisement about the "cabinet with a new look", the puppet cabinet remains a den of fascist hooligans, the main force of the ferocious "security-oriented rule".

The present situation obtaining [as received] in South Korea fully shows that, with such murderer as No Tae-u left alone, people cannot even survive, let alone achieving independence, democracy and reunification.

The No Tae-u ruling group must clearly know that it cannot get off the hook with such a deceitful drama as "cabinet reshuffle" and step down from "power" without delay.

Kim Yong-sam Praise of Chong Won-sik Criticized

SK2905060391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 29 May 91

["Disgraceful Behaviour of Political Prostitute Kim Yong-sam"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam, a despicable political prostitute of South Korea, on May 24 croaked that the new "acting prime minister" has "the capacity of administrative leadership", speaking highly of his personality, according to reports.

His unstinted praise of Chong Won-sik, former "minister of education", whom the South Korean students and people brand as a fascist reveals the wretched lot of Kim Yong-sam who can prolong his remaining days only under No Tae-u's "security-oriented rule".

His ugly sight could also be seen when he prowled about the police hospital and riot police units, the den of the white bone group [plain clothes riot police unit], in Seoul on May 23, and uttered ridiculous words.

At a time when voices demanding the dissolution of the riot police and the white bone group and punishment of murderers are ringing through South Korea he demonstratively called on murderers to "console" and "praise their troubles."

It must not go unnoticed that he "promised support" to the riot police so that it may run about in suppression with "confidence".

Some time ago, Kim Yong-sam, as befits a skilful betrayer and backslider, loudly opposed the dissolution of the white bone group and this time he showed up before murderers of the white bone group to beautify their murderous acts and agitate them, "consoling" and "praising" them. He is, indeed, a despicable and mangy fellow who knows how to swim with the current.

The political prostitute's rigmarole is an intolerable insult to the patriotic martyrs including student Kang Kyong-tae and an open challenge to the South Korean people's struggle against fascism and for democratization.

South Korean Authorities' Foreign Debts Noted

SK2905113891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0858 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—The South Korean CHUNGHANG DAILY reported that the foreign debts of the South Korean authorities ran into 32,420 million dollars as of the end of January last. They amounted to 31,700 million dollars last year.

The paper expressed concern over the prospect of further growth of foreign debts, saying: "Our economy is, by nature, largely dependent on foreign countries. The foreign pressure for market opening will grow heavier".

Turning Peninsula Into Nuclear-Free Zone Urged

SK2905073891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0505 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—Turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear free zone is not only a vital demand of the Korean people but also a unanimous demand of the progressive mankind to live in a peaceful world free from nuclear threat; it is an inseparable, important part of the international anti-nuke and peace movement, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

The article continues:

Denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula is an inseparable part of the international movement to create nuclear free zones because the Korean peninsula is a zone of the most acute confrontation between nuclear war force and anti-nuke peace force.

The U.S. imperialists are scheming to gain nuclear upper-hand while pursuing their invariable strategy of strength to realize their wild ambition for world domination.

Upset by the decrease of the sphere of their nuclear blackmail due to the establishment of nuclear free zones, they are persistently attempting to hold in check the mounting movement for creating nuclear-free peace zones in the Korean peninsula and Asia-Pacific region which they regard as the area of their vital interest.

The Korean peninsula has become a "region fraught with the biggest nuclear danger in the world" where the U.S. imperialists' nuclear blackmail is most undisguised and indiscriminate. U.S. Defence Secretary Chenney in his recent utterances babbled that the United States would continue playing a "nuclear protection role" in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia and keep its huge military forces including nuclear arms. The U.S. imperialists have worked out even a scenario to provoke a new nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

It is preposterous that the U.S. imperialists are talking about "peace" and "detente" while directly threatening us with nuclear weapons massively deployed in South Korea. This is nothing but a shameless trick to cover up their aggressive nature.

The United States and the South Korean authorities should lend an ear to the voices of peace-loving people of the world for justice, respond to our proposal for converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear free zone and take a practical step to remove nuclear threat from us.

Delegations Depart for Official Visits 28 May

SK2805105091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1014 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—A delegation of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters headed by Kim Ik-hyon, director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, to visit Cuba, a Korean railway delegation led by Pak Yong-sok, minister of railways, to attend the 19th ministerial conference of the Organization of Railway Cooperation in Hungary, and a DPRK delegation to attend a diplomatic conference for adoption of a patent right treaty in the Netherlands left here Monday.

Muhammad Hairi Wadi [name as received], editor and general director of the Syrian paper TISHRIN, arrived here yesterday.

Kim Tal-hyon Attends Afghan Delegation Party

SK2805053891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0401 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 27 (KCNA)—The Administration Council arranged a party for the visiting government trade delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan Sunday evening.

Invited there were the members of the delegation headed by Minister of Commerce Zakim Shah and Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the Afghan Embassy here Mohamed Kamel Delzada.

Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Trade Kim Tal-hyon, Vice- Minister of Foreign Trade Han Su-kil and officials concerned were present on the occasion.

The party was addressed by Kim Tal-hyon and Zakim Shah.

Kim Chong-il Letter Read at Geological Meeting

SK2905155491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1523 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—A national meeting of geological prospecting workers opened in Pyongyang today.

Present at the meeting together with geological prospecting workers from all parts of the country were Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Cho Yong-nim and Hong Song-nam, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premiers, and officials concerned. "Let us Effect a New Turn in Geological Prospecting", a letter of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants in the national meeting of geological prospecting workers, was read at the meeting.

In the letter Comrade Kim Chong-il said that the great achievements made in geological prospecting in the past under the wise guidance of the party and the leader were a

valuable wealth for the prosperity and development of the country and indicated the orientation and ways for effecting a new turn in geological prospecting meet the requirements of the constantly developing socialist economic construction.

The letter gave a scientific exposition of the essence of geological prospecting and the need to develop it and indicated the principle that should always be maintained in this work, that is, establishing chuche in prospecting, keeping geological prospecting ahead of mining industry and land building, concentrating the prospecting force on main objects, infallibly going through the set stages of prospecting and pushing ahead both with current and long-range prospecting.

Expounded in a comprehensive way in the letter are tasks and ways to develop the geological prospecting work onto a new stage—to conserve and supervise the underground resources, treasures for the development and prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people which must be handed down through generations in the distant future, too, put the geological prospecting work on modern lines, firmly build up the ranks of prospecting workers and enhance their role and improve management and supply service in the prospecting domain.

The letter indicates how to strengthen party's leadership over the geological prospecting work in keeping with its characteristics.

The letter of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il which gives scientific and comprehensive answers to all the theoretical and practical questions arising in the geological survey of the country is a highly important guideline which should be firmly adhered to in this domain and a militant banner under which to put prospecting work on a up-to-date scientific and technical basis in conformity with the requirements of the developing reality and bring about a new innovation in tapping underground resources.

Hong Song-nam delivered a report.

He said that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated this meeting to radically develop the geological prospecting work in conformity with the requirements of the developing revolution facing an honorable task to step up the socialist construction and bring the advantages of the socialist system of the DPRK into full play, and sent a historical letter to the participants of the meeting.

This letter is a highly important work to bring aboout a great revolutionary turn in the geological survey, the reporter said, adding:

In order to carry out the vast tasks before the field of geological prospecting with success, it is imperative to strictly adhere to the basic principles of the prospecting work laid down in the letter.

The reporter referred in detail to the modernization of the geological survey to effect a turn in the geological survey.

The meeting continues.

NODONG SINMUN on Party, Leader, Socialism

SK2805113891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 28 May 91

["Our Socialism Will Be Victorious Forever, Declares NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—No force can demolish our socialism and it will be victorious forever, as long as there are the wise guidance of the party and the leader, the great guiding idea and the singlehearted unity around the leader.

This is what NODONG SINMUN today says in an editorial on the talk of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the senior officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea "Our Socialism for the People Will Not Perish" on May 5, 1991.

The editorial headlined "Let Us Glorify Our Socialism Upholding the Leadership of the Party" notes:

The main spirit which runs through the work "Our Socialism for the People Will Not Perish" is to powerfully demonstrate the invincible might of our socialism which has been established under the banner of the great chuche idea and fully display its advantages.

The work is a great programme of socialism and an encyclopedic work which gives a comprehensive exposition of all the ideas, theories and policies to vigorously advance the socialist cause at the present time.

Expounded in the work are all the ideological and theoretical questions arising in accomplishing the socialist cause from the question of the guiding idea of this cause to the basic stand and principles which should be maintained in socialist construction and the question of strengthening the driving force of the revolution giving impetus to this cause. Hence, the work serves as an almighty weapon for successfully resolving the questions arising in all fields of the revolution and construction at the present moment.

The publication of this work at a time when our people's struggle for socialism is entering a new, higher stage is, indeed, a significant event.

The work is of great theoretical and practical significance in the revolutionary struggle of our people and their accomplishment of the cause of independence.

The significance lies first of all in that it makes our people deeply cherish faith in the indestructibility of socialism and higher national pride and honor in building our most superior socialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said in the work:

"Socialism that has been established to meet the people's desire for independence and the requirements of the times derives its unconquerable might from the masses' support for it and their confidence in this cause."

The work clearly proves that our socialism representing the chuche idea is a most superior, man-centered socialism which strictly defends the demand of the working class, the

demand of the people of all walks of life and the right of the nation to independence and the desire of the world people for it.

The significance of the work lies also in that it clearly vindicates the way of giving new spurs to the march of our people in the '90s to give full play to the advantages of socialism and of effecting a greater upswing in the revolution and construction.

Propounded in the work are the tasks of establishing power and building and managing the economy and the tasks of the ideological and cultural revolutions to push ahead with socialist construction in conformity with the demand of our developing revolution.

It is also an immortal work which has developed in depth the revolutionary theory of the working class on socialism and powerfully promotes the development of the cause of independence in our era.

It gives answers to many theoretical questions raised in the practice of socialist construction at the present juncture such as the theory of the social and class foundations of socialism, the theory of socialist democracy, the theory of consolidating and developing the socialist ownership and the theory of enhancing the leadership role of the party as the guiding force of socialist society.

The work is a precious fruition of the energetic ideological and theoretical activities of our party.

It is so significant and valuable for it contains the feats of the party in building the most solid and superior socialism under the most difficult conditions, holding aloft the banner of the chuche idea, a great party which clearly indicates the road ahead of socialism in our era with energetic ideological and theoretical activities.

The editorial in conclusion stresses that our socialism for the people to which the chuche idea is applied is the greatest gain won by our people in their struggle for independence under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

Pyongyang's Mansudae Art Theater Described

SK2505234191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1516 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—The Mansudae Art Theatre situated in the central district of Pyongyang is one of the famous theatres of Korea.

The theatre renders grandeur to the central part of Pyongyang in harmony with its surrounding monumental structures such as the Grand People's Study House, the Mansudae Assembly Hall, the Pyongyang School Children's Palace and the Pyongyang Department Store No.1.

The 40-metre high building has a floor space of 60,000 square metres, a stage space of 2,000 square metres.

The theatre is furnished with a complete set of equipment for the study and performance of music including a music data room richly furnished with music of over a hundred countries, a sound study room, a stereo-recording room and a dress room.

Hundreds of electric motors, winches, lighting and sound devices serve for stage and background operation. It also has a broadcasting system including television video recorders.

The Mansudae Art Theatre is a grand artistic combination of architecture, art and nature.

The outside walls of the theatre are decorated with grand murals and images in relief.

Dancing fountains and wooded parks surround the theatre and sculptures of dancers stand around the central fountain to accentuate the natural beauty. The inside walls of the theatre are decorated with famous Korean paintings, murals, crafts and sculptures.

The decoration of the central hall is particularly fascinating.

A fall flowing down strangely shaped rocks, artificial ponds teeming with fishes, etc. give the impression of the scenic Mt. Kumgang to those going up on the escalator.

A wonderful rainbow is presented by the varicolored glass blocks decorating inside walls and ceilings.

This theatre was opened on January 1, 1977 with the premiere of the music and dance tale "Song of Paradise" given by the Mansudae Art Troupe.

Many art troupes including the Mansudae Art Troupe and the Pochonbo Electronic Band give performances there.

Joint performances of famous actors and actresses of the art troupes of overseas Koreans and foreign countries who participate in the annual "April Spring Friendship Art Festival" in Pyongyang are staged in the theatre.

'Advantage' of Socialist Cultural Life Stressed

SK2605091491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0836 GMT 26 May 91

["It Is Important Advantage of Our Socialism To Guarantee Ideological and Cultural Life Suitable to Intrinsic Demand of Man"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with an article entitled "It Is Important Advantage of Our Socialism To Guarantee Ideological and Cultural Life Suitable to Intrinsic Demand of Man."

The author of the article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Socialism provides the popular masses with an ideological and cultural life in conformity with the nature of the social beings. The popular masses in our socialist society enjoy to their heart's content a sound and bountiful cultural and emotional life with the consciousness of independence as the masters of ideology and culture".

The ideological and cultural life, together with political and economic life, holds an important position as an essential sphere of social life.

The ideological and cultural life which occupies an important place in the social life concentrically shows the dignity and value of the social being.

The advantage of the socialist cultural life lies in that it makes the entire people create and enjoy culture by meeting the intrinsic demand of man to constantly develop morally and physically.

Today our people enjoy to their heart's content a sound and rich cultural and emotional life with the consciousness of independence as the genuine masters of ideology and culture under the superior socialist system.

They are firmly arming themselves with the chuche idea, the absolutely independent idea, and thus becoming the people strong in the consciousness of independence. Therefore, they fully enjoy a worthy life as the genuine masters of their destiny, the full-fledged masters of the state and society.

Our people's high degree of consciousness of independence and the spirit of collectivism finds graphic expression in that they value socio-political integrity. It is our people's noble ideological and moral traits that they will not disgrace the socio-political integrity given by the party and the leader though they may lose their lives in the way of revolution for realising the independence of the popular masses.

Under our socialist society the working people have been brought up to be powerful beings who are possessed of a high degree of creative ability and qualifications. Our party provides the people with an excellent cultural and emotional life by creating socialist national culture.

Our operas, dramas, films and songs excellently reflect the national emotion and the revolutionary aspirations of the popular masses; our people take national pride and honor in them and fully enjoy them.

Our people under the correct leadership of our party have developed the excellent customs and traditions and moral traits of our nation in conformity with the requirements of the socialist reality and thus established sound moral traits and mode of life based on revolutionary comradeship and sense of obligation and the revolutionary conscience in the whole society.

The ideological and cultural life fully enjoyed by our people under the superior socialist society is a true life that brilliantly embodies the demands of the intrinsic nature of social beings in terms of the revolutionary spirit, soundness and richness. This is the most priceless and worthy life that can be enjoyed only under our socialist system, which is fundamentally different from the bourgeois ideological and cultural life.

Our people clearly see the corruption and reactionary nature of bourgeois ideology and culture in the reality of capitalist society and take a due pride and honor in the ideological and cultural life enjoyed by themselves in our socialist society.

Shipbuilding Complex Launches Floating Dock

SK2505154091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 25 (KCNA)—The Nampo Shipbuilding Complex, one of the powerful shipbuilding bases in Korea, launched the large floating dock "Hoenyong-June 23".

Equipped with modern repair equipment and facilities including a generator and large pumps, the floating dock can sink and surface in a short time.

The dock, which was designed and built with our own equipment, materials and technique in keeping with the specific features of our seas and the conditions of our maritime transport, is capable of repairing all types of large cargo ships built in our country.

The dock will help toward further reinforcing ship-repair bases and advancing the ship-building industry.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea named it "Hoenyong-June 23" with a view to conveying down through generations the historical day when the great leader and Comrade Kim Chong-sok, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, visited the workers in this shipbuilding yard after liberation.

Maize Transplanting Reported Completed 26 May

SK2805105891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Pyongyang May 28 (KCNA)—Maize transplanting was finished in Korea as of May 26, except the fields of cold-beds for rice seedlings and part of northern highland.

The finish of maize transplanting across the country in right season on the principles of right crop in right area and right crop in right time made the first breakthrough for a bumper crop this year.

Agricultural working people are now weeding and manuring maize fields with the attitude befitting the masters responsible for the nation's rice granaries, while stepping up rice-transplanting at the final stage.

KCNA Review of 29 May Pyongyang Press

SK2905064491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 29 May 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang May 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries news that the gist of "Let Us Bring the Advantages of Socialism in Our Country Into Full Play", an immortal classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song, was reported by foreign newspapers.

Appearing in the daily is a report that South Korean people are deeply revering President Kim Il-song as the lodestar of national reunification.

"Our Socialism for the People Will Not Perish", a work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was reported by the Chinese papers, news agency and radio and is evoking great repercussions among our working people, says the press.

In connection with the publication of this work MINJU CHOSON comes out with an editorial headlined "Let Us Powerfully Demonstrate the Invincible Might of Our Socialism Upholding the Banner of the Chuche Idea."

NODONG SINMUN carries what Ralainarivo Noel Harvey, vice-chairman of the national committee for the study of the socialist revolutionary charter of Madagascar and the chuche idea of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution, said about the noble humanity possessed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The daily devotes one whole page to reminiscences of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters Pak Chong-suk and Wi In-chan under the title "Recollecting Days When the Eastern Coastal Areas Turned Into a Fort of Anti-Japanese Revolution." The reminiscences say Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, who advanced deep into the homeland in July and August 1937 conducted valiant military and political activities and thus laid a strong fort of the revolution in the eastern coastal areas of South Hamgyong Province.

The daily reports the message of greetings sent by the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea to Blaise Compaore upon his election as the general secretary of the People's Front of Burkina Faso.

Papers carry a statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry clarifying the DPRK Government's stand towards the UN membership issue.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for pushing ahead with the construction of major objects.

Conveyed in papers is news of rice transplanting on cooperative farms.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk sent a message of congratulation to Girija Prasad Koirala upon the latter's appointment as prime minister of the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal, reports the press.

Carried in the press are accounts of an arrival in Pyongyang of a Maltese Government delegation, talks held between government delegations of Korea and Malta, a banquet arranged by the DPRK Government for the Maltese delegation and speeches made by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice and Incumbent President of the U.N. General Assembly Guido De Marco at the banquet.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that some 5,000 students and teachers of Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul held a rally on the death of coed Kim Kwi-chong, the all-people measure council held the second meeting and vowed to fight till the present "regime" is over-thrown and a democratic government established, and Chongyojo [National Teachers Trade Union] made public a statement strongly protesting against the appointment of the former puppet minister of education as "acting prime minister".

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets committed unending provocations in the area along the Military Demarcation Line, said the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries voices of overseas Koreans denouncing the murder of student Kang Kong-tae.

The paper comes out with a commentary lashing out at the "cabinet reshuffle" of the No Tae-u ruling group.

It is reported in the paper that the Amnesty International demanded the release of patriotic figures of South Korea and that an international signature campaign for peaceful reunification of Korea was launched in Egypt and Benin.

According to the paper, Comrade Fidel Castro declared that the strength of Cuba lies in the united force of the people. It introduces Cuba's success in the socialist construction.

Included in the international news columns of the press are reports that the Indonesian president outlined the role of ASEAN, the Zanzibar president of Tanzania [as received] called for raising vigilance against the pressure from Western countries, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the U.S. imperialists for committing criminal acts in the waters of the Persian Gulf, the press centre of the Defence Ministry of the Soviet Union published an information rejectng the fabrication of the United States, former chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union Nikolay Ryzhkov who was nominated as candidate for the president of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] said in his meeting with voters that the structure of the powerful big state has come to be dissolved as a consequence of "reform".

The Ugandan president underlined tasks of Africa and the Tunisian president called for strengthening national unity, says NODONG SINMUN.

"Denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula Is Important Link of World Anti-Nuke Peace Movement" is the title of an article of the paper.

South Korea

North Korean Nuclear Development Examined

SK2505134291 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 18 May 91 p 5

[Article by (Aleksey Bogapurov), director of a department of the United States of America and Canada Institute under the USSR Academy of Sciences, carried by Soviet news agency NOVOSTI: "North Korea's Nuclear Development Has Not Reached Stage That Spawns Fear"—date not given]

[Text] Relations between the Soviet Union and the DPRK (hereafter referred to as North Korea) have long captured the attention of specialists. This is because North Korea has been one of the most delicate areas when it comes to Soviet diplomacy.

The two countries signed the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance in 1961. This treaty stipulates that when North Korea is attacked with armed forces, the Soviet Union "must dutifully come to the aid of North Korea, with all manner of available forces mobilized." This is just the legal aspect of the problem. Everything becomes even more complicated when it is viewed politically.

Few among those close to Gorbachev would be happy about being dragged into a potential military conflict on the Korean peninsula. Because of their mutual desire that such conflicts never occur on the Korean peninsula, strategists in Moscow and the U.S. Administration have many things in common.

First of all, both the United States and the Soviet Union are worried about the unpredictability of North Korea's diplomatic policies and the course of development in North Korea as a whole.

There are at least three reasons to explain why the situation in North Korea is unstable. The first is the deterioration of "the great leader's health." Not only is it a source of uncertainty and uneasiness, but it also creates an atmosphere that makes the upper reaches of power in North Korea feel compelled to constantly make preparations.

The second reason involves the apprehension Kim Il-song and his officially anointed heir apparent Kim Chong-il feel about the possibility of their holding on to the ruling power in the future as in the past and up until now.

The third, and the last, is that resentment of the "immortal leader's rule" is growing among the people who are experiencing an extreme form of poverty and are deprived of human rights.

More serious, however, is that not only high-ranking party members in the countryside and in the center, but high-ranking military leaders find the notion about "the communist kingdom to be inherited" not only hard to agree with, but they resent it. The "inherited communist kingdom" blocks the young and educated party officials from climbing the ladder of success. This renders the reports of attempted antigovernment protests, which the North Korean Government vehemently denies, credible.

In the face of such complicated domestic factors, the North Korean Government has been desperately trying to maintain a noble business-as-usual appearance, while in practice suppressing the strong antitotalitarian urges. This is out of its desire to project itself as a credible state in the international community and then to persuade the United States and Japan to establish diplomatic ties with it.

Doubt about North Korea's nuclear development will not go away simply because its nuclear weapons development appears to be so vague. In fact, North Korea has refused to sign the nuclear safeguards accord worked out by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], an agreement on placing nuclear weapons and industrial facilities under inspection of the international surveillance institutions, even after signing the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

North Korea has denounced the United States for resorting to "nuclear threats" and urged it to guarantee the nonuse of nuclear weapons. On the general diplomatic principle of nonpreemptive use of nuclear weapons, the United States has rejected North Korea's request.

The U.S. position has its logical basis. However, the United States must understand the fears of the North Korean Government, which has been very sensitive to the nuclear issue. I personally believe that if it is to lead North Korea to accept the IAEA's nuclear inspection, the United States must recognize North Korea's worries from the position of the powerful.

Frankly, I feel that North Korea's nuclear potential has been overestimated.

North Korea has not acquired all the technological processes necessary for manufacturing nuclear weapons. Also, it has not acquired state-of-the-art technology and equipment for manufacturing nuclear weapons and will not be able to do so without foreign help. And, the Soviet Union is opposed to the development of nuclear weapons on either North or South Korea, on the Korean peninsula.

As far as I know, China, too, is very careful about the issue of North Korea's nuclear development. Therefore, a clear task for the United States, the Soviet Union, and China is to promote understanding among themselves to prevent North and South Korea from possessing nuclear weapons and to prevent Third World countries from trying to break up their efforts toward this end.

Steps toward the North-South simultaneous UN admission will be hastened if North Korea assumes a pragmatic position that is acceptable to the United States and Japan.

As a matter of fact, the Soviet Union will not oppose the North-South Korean UN admission as a single member if North and South Korea agree to it.

However, the prospects for such an agreement by North and South Korea are not bright. Therefore, it appears, a plan for the ROK and the Soviet Union to sign a treaty on good-neighbor relations and cooperation has been presented.

There is nothing to doubt about the plan itself. Similar examples to this are the joint declarations which the Soviet Union signed respectively with France, Great Britain, and West Germany in the 1970's.

Theoretically, the signing of such a treaty will bring a concept of "being on a equal footing" between Seoul and Pyongyang. This is because, even though the Soviet Union and North Korea signed such a treaty, no such treaty has been signed between the Soviet Union and the ROK.

However, we should not overlook one thing.

It must be pointed out that, even though the Soviet Union did not raise the issue of reexamining or abolishing its treaty with North Korea last year, the treaty has been on the way to its abrogation.

We will know come 1995 what will happen to this treaty.

Because the Soviet Union and the ROK will sign the treaty anyway, the fate of the treaty between the Soviet Union and North Korea will be a testimony to the deep currents of the Soviet Union's diplomatic policies in the 1990's.

North Said Willing To Reopen IAEA Talks

SK2905100891 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 29 May 91 p 1

[Correspondent Choe Maeng-ho from Vienna]

[Text] North Korea has expressed its willingness to reopen negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] over nuclear safeguards agreement, which have been practically stalled.

According to an IAEA source, during a 28 May visit with (Hans Blicks), secretary general of the IAEA, Chon In-chon, North Korea's new ambassador to the international organization in Vienna, conveyed North Korea's willingness to reopen the negotiations on the nuclear safeguards agreement.

The source also said that such a stand expressed by North Korea is believed to be an aaffirmative sign of North Korea's willingness to bring an end to the issue related to the nuclear safeguards agreement in step with the announcement of its decision to apply for UN membership.

Diplomatic sources here also described North Korea's abrupt, complete reversal of its stand on the nuclear issue as expressed in its willingness to reopen negotiations over nuclear safeguards agreement, along with its annoucement of a plan to apply for UN membership, as a significant change.

These diplomatic sources also explained North Korea's changed attitude as a result of international pressure it began to feel after Japan had called on North Korea to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement. North Korea's refusal to sign the agreement broke down its talks with Japan which went so far as to make it a condition for establishing Japan-North Korea diplomatic relations. So, North Korea may have no choice but to comply with the international call for allowing an international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

In fact, such major council states of the IAEA as the United States, the Soviet Union, Canada, Australia, and Japan agreed on adopting a resolution at the next council meeting of the IAEA scheduled for June to call on North Korea to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement. In particular, Japan has been increasing its pressure on North Korea by earnestly seeking to institute a special inspection system .

Concerning the possible date of reopening the negotiations, an IAEA source said there is a possibility of North Korea's trying to hold discussions with the IAEA sometime during this week at the earliest and to start negotiations even before the next council meeting.

North Korea has been postponing the signing of the nuclear safeguards agreement which it should have signed within 18 months after signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985.

South To Propose Education Centers in DMZ

SK2505010291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 May 91 p 3

[Text] The Education Ministry will propose to North Korea the setup of three education centers near the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]for integrated education for national unification, an official said yesterday.

The ministry is also planning to seek exchanges of educational missions between Seoul and Pyongyang and student excursions to specific areas throughout the peninsula, the official told a meeting of educational advisors.

He said the ministry is considering forming a commission that will be in charge of developing educational projects for unifications.

North Contacted About Salvaging Fishing Boat

SK2805035591 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Yi Sang-yon, minister of home affairs, today sent a telephone notice to Choe Pok-yon, chairman of the North Korean Fisheries Committee, and urged him to salvage its fishing boat, Muan Son no. 9815, as soon as possible, which was stranded in our territorial waters at the end of last year.

He said that the North Korean side, in its telephone notice sent to our side on 15 January, had asked us to hold on to the boat for safety until the sea calms, but it did not take any steps to salvage it for four months and that it was becoming difficult to maintain hold of it.

Swiss Reporter Views Situation in Pyongyang

SK2705135191 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 26 May 91 p 5

[Travelogue on North Korea by reporter of TRIBUNE DE GENEVE, Switzerland: "North Korea's Agriculture in Bankrupt and Even Foreign Diplomats are Rationed Food"—YONHAP report from Brussels]

[Text] A recent report in the Swiss daily LE TRIBUNE DE GENEVE said that North Korea's "great leader" Kim Il-song, the 79-year-old man who is now nearing the close of his life, may be tormented by the nightmare of seeing himself repeat the end of former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and another nightmare, one that is perhaps more realistic, the reunification of the Korean peninsula patterned on the way the two Germanys achieved their reunification.

The daily, LE TRIBUNE DE GENEVE, carried a travelogue on North Korea by its reporter who has just returned from a week-long trip to North Korea where he covered the annual Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] conference in Pyongyang. In the article headlined "The Enduring North Korea—A Museum of Marxism," the reporter said that it was as though he had just returned from a trip to an extraterrestrial world, not a real world."

Quoting a foreign diplomat in Pyongyang as saying "not even George Orwell would have imagined such a system," the reporter said: "Nevertheless, North Korea, since it can never remain completely isolated from the outside world, may one day come across a fate identical to that of East Germany after it has been reunified with the South patterned on the way the two Germanys have achieved their reunification."

The following are highlights of the article:

Today when many communist regimes have been toppled throughout the world, the Kim Il-song kingdom has reached a stage of a sort of consummation. This writer who had completed a week-long tour of North Korea under the surveillance of the so-called "liaison officials" can hardly suppress the feeling that he had returned from a trip to an extraterrestrial world. A foreign diplomat in Pyongyang said: "Not even George Orwell would have imagined such a social system in which everyone spies on everyone."

Except for bus stops and subway stations, Pyongyang, a city said to accommodate 1.5 million people, appeared to be an empty uninhabited capital.

No portrait of Marx or Lenin was there to be seen in the xenophobic North Korea, a country of the chuche idea, while Kim Il-song's portraits and statues were virtually everywhere.

Although the chuche idea is claimed to be a man-centered ideology, the North Korean residents are forced to be blindly obedient. According to Amnesty International, North Korea keeps between 100,000 and 160,000 political prisoners in 12 harsh concentration camps. Also, in other concentration camps, North Korean students who had been abruptly called back from such fraternal socialist countries as the Soviet Union and East European countries are "being reeducated."

Math books published in North Korea for the elementary school pupils explain how to add the number of U.S. imperialists killed during the Korean war and American prisoners-of-war.

The North Korean criminal code, an instrument of the despotic state where individuals enjoy no rights at all, stipulates that not only those involved in plots and terrorist and spying acts, along with those who have criticized or slandered the party and state policy through remarks, books, and even graffiti, but also those who seek to flee to foreign countries, including political asylum in foreign embassies, be subjected to capital punishment.

The North Korean economy is on the brink of bankruptcy. Its agriculture, which has fallen victim to an abusive use of pesticides under a completely collective system, has so deteriorated that it no longer can feed the North Korean residents.

Ration coupons have been distributed not only to the North Korean residents, but also to foreign diplomats. The recent annual Pyongyang IPU conference which invited about 1,000 delegates from about 80 countries to come to Pyongyang has offered an opportunity of once again filling the shelves in the cash shops with Japanese beer, Bulgarian wines, bananas, and pineapple, and other such goods.

This was thanks to loans from China, the only country in the world that is still willing to grant loans to the Government of North Korea, a country notorious for not paying back its foreign debts.

The existence of North Korea's transferable won currency, basically confined to be used by foreigners and whose value is five to six times higher than the local currency, has set a black market in motion.

How long can North Korea, a communist museum from start to finish, survive in the future? The props and stays of the regime in Pyongyang argue that the regime will remain alive forever. They are full of resolve to defend North Korea at all costs against the capitalist "virus" that has toppled the communist regimes in East Europe and that has begun infiltrating into the Soviet Union.

At a time when the "great leader" Kim Il-song appears to be only physically aged despite his age of 79, his son Kim Chong-il, his heir designate, keeps spawning a host of enigmas as he never makes his appearance before foreigners, at least not publicly.

Kim Chong-il, who is known to be in charge of day-to-day party and state affairs, seems to have positioned his men of his generation in all major posts of power.

Kim Chong-il is also reported to have been secretly appointed as the commander of North Korea's Armed Forces on 16 February, on his 49th birthday.

However, Kim Chong-il will never be able to inherit his father's authority and the military experience acquired by Kim Il-song in the course of his anti-Japanese resistance to the Japanese imperialists, some real and some fictitious. Rumors of Kim Chong-il's taste for luxury items persisted without let-up, though there was no way of proving it.

USSR Agrees on Details of Export Purchases

SK2505011891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 May 91 p 6

[Text] Working-level officials of Korea and the Soviet Union yesterday reconfirmed the 29 export items and their amounts which Moscow plans to purchase with $800 million in tied loans from Seoul this year.

Ending a five-day meeting to finalize the detailed export schedule of 34 industrial materials and consumer goods, the two sides readjusted the shipment amounts of two items and decided to further discuss three others later, said officials at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The two delegations met in Moscow in February and made a tentative agreement on 34 items, but left their finalization to the just-ended meeting.

The working-level meeting decided to cut the exports of telephone cable from the original $15 million to $6.7 million, while increasing chemical additives from $7 million to $13 million, they said.

The Soviet delegation wanted to slash the imports of sports shoes to increase the purchase of other more urgent items, but the Korean side stuck to the item to be supplied mostly by small businesses.

Moscow wanted to include more electric and electronics parts and components in the shipment list only to be met with Seoul's insistence on the original agreement.

The Korean delegation again called on their Soviet counterpart to include containers on the import list for the smooth transportation of the trade items. The Soviet Union said it will seriously examine the matter and notify Korea of the results later.

The Soviet officials, led by V.N. Koptevskiy, Asia Director of the Soviet Exterior Economy Ministry, strongly suggested that Korea include the repairing of fishing vessels in the export list.

The Korean participants, headed by Hwang Tu-hon, director general of the ministry's Trade Bureau, however, flatly denied the proposal, saying that the repairing of vessels neither belongs to raw materials nor consumer products.

The Korean officials also called for the early repayment of about $39 million the Soviet owes to Korean exporters from the $500 million worth of cash loan provided by Seoul.

The two sides decided to have working-level meetings over $500 million worth of exports of materials and consumer goods during 1992 in September or October, and for capital goods exports on deferred-payment basis in 1992-1993 at some opportune time later, the officials said.

With the near finalization of export items, amounts and Korean exporters, the shipments will begin next month, they said. The ministry in this regard will soon post a guideline on export rules to the Soviet Union through the tied loan for raw materials and consumer goods.

Soviets Change Suppliers to Seoul's Displeasure

SK2705071991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0446 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Seoul, May 27 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union has unilaterally changed agreed suppliers of consumer goods to be bought with tied loans from South Korea to the displeasure of the Korean Government, business sources said Monday.

The Korean Government prepared a list of approved exporters on an item-by-item basis for the 800 million dollars in tied loans, but the Soviet foreign trade organization selected firms offering better prices for polyester filament dty, a synthetic yarn, and stearic acid, a raw material used to manufacture rubber, the sources said.

Samsung Corp., Sunkyong Ltd. and two other general trading companies were selected by the government to export 10,000 tons of polyester-f yarn to the Soviet Union and negotiations for 8,500 tons have been completed.

But the Soviets have initialed an agreement to import 9,000 tons from Hyundai Corp. at 3.19 dollars per kilogram for 100-denier yarn and 2.80 dollars per kilogram for 300-denier yarn, more than 10 cents per kilogram below the prices offered by the four companies.

Sunkyong was designated sole exporter of stearic acid but the Soviets opted for a general trading company that offered it the chemical at 695 dollars per ton, much lower than the 800 dollars asked by Sunkyong.

The company's name is unknown, a Sunkyong official said.

Sunkyong had planned to sign an export contract early this month, but is still unable to do so, he said.

Officials at the Trade and Industry Ministry and the Korea Synthetic Fiber Association accused Hyundai of "disturbing the transaction order by dumping."

A ministry official said the change of exporters was a result of competition and should not have been made without asking the ministry.

Even if Hyundai has signed contracts, it will be unable to ship the goods unless it has an export licence, he noted.

Cambodia

Tie Banh Greets SRV Minister on Anniversary

BK1605115691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0419 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 16—Tie Banh, minister of national defence of the State of Cambodia, has extended warmest greetings to his Vietnamese counterpart, Gen. Le Duc Anh, on the 37th anniversary of Vietnam's Dien Bien Phu victory over French aggression (May 7).

In his congratulatory message, Gen. Tie Banh said: "The historical Dien Bien Phu victory of the Vietnamese people has been deeply engraved in the mind of the Cambodian Armed Forces. We warmly welcome the anniversary of the victory and consider it our own. We together with the other two Indochinese peoples will continue to hold aloft the banner of militant solidarity and fraternal cooperation for further victory and development in our respective countries.

"I am firmly convinced that the militant solidarity, friendship and multi-form cooperation between our two countries, especially between our two Armies, will be further consolidated and developed."

"Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to wish you the best of health and ever greater successes in your noble tasks," concluded the message.

Chea Sim Receives U.S.-Swiss Delegation

BK2405095491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0438 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 24—Chea Sim, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, received here Wednesday an American-Swiss global network delegation led by its representative Ralph Kucera at the end of its visit to Cambodia.

Speaking to his guests, Chea Sim brought out the all-round achievements recorded by the Cambodian people in national defence and construction. He said that the Cambodian people are eager for peace and hateful of war which causes losses of life and property to the people.

He also spoke of the party and state's concern about how to maintain the national tradition and religions cherished by the Cambodian people.

He informed his guests of the government's efforts in the quest of a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem so as to put an early end to the war and sufferings in the country. He thanked the organization for its assistance and plan to continue assisting Cambodia, and said he believed that through its visit the delegation had better understood the reality in the country.

In his reply, Ralph Kucera expressed his satisfaction at the fine results in national reconstruction of the Cambodian people, welcomed the open-door policy of the Cambodian Government towards religions, and said his delegation had witnessed evidences of genocidal crimes left by the Pol Pot regime.

It was the second visit by the organisation to Cambodia since the downfall of the Pol Pot regime. The first one took place in 1990 during which it funded 25,000 U.S dollars in constructing school buildings in Krabau Commune, Kamchay Mea District, Prey Veng Province.

The organization also plans to yearly fund 500,000 U.S. dollars to assist Combodian orphans suffering from the war.

Chea Sim Receives Christian Group's Delegation

BK2405093891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0452 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 24—Chea Sim, chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, received in Phnom Penh on May 22 a delegation of the America-Singapore Dynamic Christian Organization led by Mr. Benny who is on a visit to Cambodia.

Chairman Chea Sim informed his guests of the open-door policy of the State of Cambodia towards religions and economic development and welcomed the international organizations for providing humanitarian aid to the Cambodian people and their suggestion to set up offices here.

He profoundly thanked the America-Singapore Dynamic Christian Organization as well as other international organisations for their assistance to the Cambodian people in rebuilding their war-torn country.

For his part, Mr. Benny expressed his joy at the flexible policy of the State of Cambodia on religions and pledged to help Cambodian cadres and workers in the computer field.

Chea Sim Receives French Overseas Cambodians

BK2905062291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0433 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 29—Chea Sim, chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Defence and Construction of the Kampuchean Fatherland, received in Phnom Penh on Monday a delegation of the "Mission Cambodgienne pour la Paix" from France led by Venerable Preah Mohaghosananda.

The 60-member delegation including 4 Buddhist monks arrived here on May 20.

After recalling the barbarous crimes committed by the Polpotists over the past 12 years, Chairman Chea Sim said the State of Cambodia has restored Buddhism as the state religion. As a result, the number of Buddhist monks has so far risen to 20,000 as compared with none under Pol Pot regime.

Concerning the Cambodian problem, Chairman Chea Sim stressed that the Cambodian party and state leaders are now resolved to struggle against the Pol Pot clique and ensure a peaceful life for the Cambodian people. He went on: "We are not the Khmer Rouge because we separated

ourselves from it and are struggling against its gruesome activities against innocent Cambodians." He called on the overseas Cambodians to contribute to the national reconstruction.

In reply, Venerable Preah Mohaghosananda thanked the party and Government of the State of Cambodia for creating favorable conditions for his party to visit the homeland and pledged to help Cambodians abroad better understand the reality in Cambodia.

Canadian Delegation Holds Meeting With Hun Sen

BK2905084391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] A delegation of the Canadian Foreign Ministry led by Allen Sullivan, Canadian ambassador in Rome and envoy of the Canadian foreign minister, was officially visiting the State of Cambodia on 26 May 1991.

At 0930 on 27 May at the office of the Council of Ministers, the delegation paid a courtesy call on and held a working meeting with Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Present at the meeting were Comrade Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister; Comrade Uch Kim-an, deputy minister assistant to the chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Theam Chhun-i, chief of the Foreign Ministry's America Department.

On that occasion, Allen Sullivan told the audience that the objective of his mission, assigned by the Canadian foreign minister, was to find out the State of Cambodia's stance on the UN document [words indistinct] and on various primary viewpoints on seeking a comprehensive political settlement.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers clearly briefed the delegation about the State of Cambodia side's goodwill in the search for a peaceful solution for the Cambodian people. And on the draft document, the chairman clarified that the State of Cambodia side was well aware of the document and already accepted most of its clauses, but there were some remaining points that should be subject to further discussion by only the members of the Supreme National Council. Moreover, the chairman explicitely underlined that specific measures should be taken to prevent the return of the genocidal regime and that the preservation of the status quo prior to elections was to maintain security in the leadup to the elections. He also presented to the delegation a number of necessary preventive measures against the genocidal regime's return.

Before concluding the meeting, Allen Sullivan thanked the Council of Ministers chairman for his concise satisfactory explanation and pointed out Canada's intention to see the cease-fire further implemented after the meeting of the Supreme National Council in Jakarta.

German Parliament's Economic Delegation Arrives

BK2505071291 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 May (SPK)—A delegation of the German Parliament's Economic Cooperation Commission led by Rudolf Bindid arrived in Phnom Penh on Friday 24 May for a visit to Cambodia.

The mission was greeted upon its arrival at Pochentong Airport by Chiem Yiep, vice chairman of the Economic and Budgetary Commission, and Som Kimsuor, vice chairwoman of the Sociocultural Commission of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly.

Economic Cooperation With USSR Promoted

BK2905074691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0438 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 29—An agreement on economic and trade cooperation between Cambodia and the Soviet Union for 1991 was concluded in Phnom Penh recently.

Signatories were Trade Minister Lieut. General Nhim Vanda and Soviet Ambassador to Cambodia Y. Myakhotnykh.

The agreement provides for the expansion of trade and economic relations in 1991.

Under the document, the Soviet side will provide Cambodia with credits for the development of the thermoelectric power plant No. 4; the restoration of the electricity (?station and the water purification plant) in Phnom Penh; the supply of spare-parts for the "inter-sputnik" telecommunications station; and the setting up of an oil-pipe network connecting off-shore tankers with storages at the seaport of Kompong Som City.

The USSR will also continue to give non-refundable aid to Cambodia in 1991 to modernize a 150-kw medium-wave radio transmitter, equip radio relay stations, build a state-run printing house and a circus ring, and supply medical equipment to the Cambodia-USSR friendship hospital in Phnom Penh.

Danielle Mitterrand Continues Visit Activities

BK2905101791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] On 28 May a delegation of the France Libertes Funds led by Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president, visited Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Upon its arrival in Siem Reap Province, the delegation was warmly greeted by the provincial people's committee and briefed on developments in the province during the past more than 12 years.

On the same day the mission also visited the medical faculty and Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh City.

'Shocked' by Khmer Rouge 'Horror'

BK2805063991 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0441 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 28—Danielle Mitterrand came face-to-face with the horror of the Khmer Rouge here Monday when she visited the their torture centre and slaughter ground outside the Cambodian capital, says AFP.

The wife of French President Francois Mitterrand was clearly shocked by the experience.

She first visited Cheung Ek, a site 19 kilometres (nine miles) outside Phnom Penh where some 20,000 political prisoners were executed by the Khmer Rouge, who ruled Cambodia between April 1975 and January 1979.

Almost 9,000 skeletons have been dug up from mass graves and placed in a massive stupa, or Buddhist shrine, before which Mrs. Mitterrand placed flowers and incense.

"In front of such horror one no longer knows what to say, one even no longer knows what to think," she wrote in the visitor's book.

She added that she had read of the atrocities committed by the radical Marxist Khmer Rouge, " but to see the reality has completely overwhelmed me."

The French First Lady however saw room for hope and said she was happy that her non-governmental organisations—the June 21 Association and France Liberte—had done their bit to help in "the renaissance of Cambodia."

Later at Phnom Penh's Tuol Sleng prison, where political inmates were tortured, she said the Khmer Rouge "sadism" surpasses comprehension."

Mrs. Mitterrand, who is here in a humanitarian role as head of France Liberte's Danielle Mitterrand Foundation, added that she could understand why Cambodia did not want to live through such a harrowing period again.

She visited projects helped by her foundation, including Phnom Penh University, anh talked to teachers at the Alliance Francaise opened here last year as sign of Paris's desire to boost cultural links with its former protectorate.

It also acts as a de facto embassy, handling contacts and coordinating cooperation with a government Paris does not recognise.

Mrs. Mitterrand lunched with Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and was to be guest of honour at a private dinner hosted by Prime Minister Hun Sen. Delegation members stressed that her visit was not political but observers said talks with government officials are bound to touch on efforts to end the long civil war between Phnom Penh and the three-party opposition alliance, which is dominated by the Khmer Rouge.

France takes a neutral stand but has played a major role in trying to bring the two sides to the negotiating table.

Analysts said that Mrs. Mitterrand could give her husband useful insights on the situation here, especially on the economic and social front.

She is due to visit the ancient Angkor temple complex in the northwest Tuesday and leave for Vietnam on Wednesday.

Chea Chanto Visits Hospitalized Combatants

BK2305080191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] On the morning of 21 May, an interministerial delegation led by Comrade Chea Chanto, alternate member of the party Central Committee and planning minister, visited and distributed some gifts to hospitalized cadres and combatants at the 1/79 hospital.

Speaking on this occasion Comrade Captain (Kung Suon), political director of the 1/79 hospital, expressed most profound gratitude to the party, state, and front for constantly paying attention to visiting and providing assistance to our wounded and disabled combatants.

Replying, Comrade Chea Chanto praised the heroism of our cadres and combatants, who have sacrificed fresh blood and flesh for the cause of defending the motherland and social and national gains. Along with this, the comrade minister called on the hospital committee to pay attention to further treating and taking care of wounded and disabled cadres and combatants to be worthy of the latter's great deeds and contributions to the cause of defending our motherland and people.

Regional Army Meeting Reviews Past Results

BK2805074291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The meeting to sum up the politicomilitary work in the 1990-91 dry season and set the 1991 rainy-season tasks of the 3d Military Region which was held from 25 to 27 May ended successfully.

During the three-day session, the participants listened to a report on the leadership work in the 3d Military Region during the 1990-91 dry season and a report summing up the results of the party, political, logistic, finance, and technical work.

The participants also enthusiastically discussed and exchanged views on the strong and weak points and the good experiences for use in the current rainy season.

Through the work carried out in the 1990-91 dry season, many outstanding units and individuals have been found—that is, seven units received citation certificates of the Council of Ministers, 24 units and 147 individuals received citation certificates and letters of the Defense Ministry, and 76 units and 347 individuals received citation certificates and letters of the 3d Military Region.

The participants also listened attentively to the significant exhortations of Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of

national defense, which emphasized the important issues related to the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

All participants were also urged to make every effort to successfully and effectively fulfill the current rainy-season tasks in the way suitable to their respective localities, thus firmly defending their localities and the people's peaceful life.

Hun Sen Attends Meeting

BK2605124991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] On the morning of 25 May, in the 3d Military Region [Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Takeo, Kampot, Koh Kong, Kompong Som, and Kandal Provinces], a meeting was held to sum up the 1990-91 dry season campaign and the 1991 rainy season tasks.

Attending the meeting were party and state leaders; leading cadres from central ministries and services; provincial party committees; the seven municipal and provincial commands; and a multitude of cadres from regiments, the training school, and offices of the 3d Military Region. This occasion was chaired by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy defense minister, and chief of the Cambodian People's Army General Staff.

Opening the meeting, Comrade Colonel Prum Din, commander of the 3d Military Region, welcomed the successes scored by the Armed Forces in the 3d Military Region in the 1990-91 dry season. The comrade called on all those attending the meeting to do their best to contribute to discussing and providing ideas for the meeting to use in expanding experiences and successfully and effectively carrying out the 1991 rainy season tasks.

Kompong Speu Faced With 'Severe' Food Shortage

BK1505073291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0424 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 15—This year, Kompong Speu Province, 50 km west of Phnom Penh, would need 94,000 more [metric] tons of rice for its population, as the last monsoon rice harvest was poor due to unfavourable weather.

According to the provincial agricultural service, the average per-hectare yield of the monsoon rice was only one ton, or 300 kg less than that of last year.

Last monsoon the peasants grew rice on 50 percent of the total earmarked area, but only 35,000 ha [hectares] of rice was harvestable and about 8,900 ha was destroyed by severe drought. Therefore, the yearly per-capita food supply in the province dropped to 100 kg, which could last merely 3-4 months.

Bar Set District will need rice most badly, facing a shortage of 23,100 tons. Then come the districts of Udong, Samraong Tong, Kong Pisei and Phnum Sruoch, which require respectively 20,600, 16,300, 12,100 and 10,100 tons of rice more to feed the local people.

The districts of Thpong and Aoral are short of 7,700 and 2,000 tons of rice respectively while the provincial town lacks some 3,000 tons.

The service said that the peasants have tried their best to grow 1,000 ha of rice and hundreds of hectares of subsidiary food crops in the dry season to make up for the poor harvest, but, unfortunately, 30 percent of the rice area and all the cash crops area have wilted for want of water, hence threatening Kompong Speu with severe shortage of food supplies.

Agriculture Ministry Warns of Forest Depletion

BK2605071091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0416 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 26—The Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Cambodia has recently issued a directive limiting the number of sawmills and forestry products purchasing agencies in the country with the aim of preventing overexploitation of forests.

Forest-rice provinces in the country are entitled to have at most 15 sawmills, while "poorer" provinces are allowed fewer mills according to the local forest potentials.

At present, too many sawmills have been set up in Kompong Cham and Pursat Provinces and Kompomg Som City, which is detrimental to the conservation of forests there.

The ministry said about 300 sawmills have been set up and 400 sawing machines installed throughout the country since the liberation. Each machine could saw at least 2.5 cubic meters of wood a day.

Expressing its concern over the depletion of forests in Cambodia, the ministry said forest area in the country has been reduced from 13 million hectares (a pre-war figure) to only seven million hectares at present due to forest depletion.

The English language Thai paper "THE NATION" said the Khmer Rouge had overexploited the forests for timber sale to Thai companies.

"THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW" wrote an article on January 12, 1989 on forest losses in Cambodia, saying that every year the forest area in the country was reduced by 0.3 per cent of 25,000 hectares.

More Government Positions 'Attacked' 20-23 May

BK2705080591 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0451 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 27—Nine government positions in various provinces were attacked by the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition factions between May 20-23.

The enemy troops on May 20 raided a government post in Plong Village 8 km northeast of Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province. They also mined a bridge on a road 15km southeast of the district. The following day, they fired some 20 shells of artillery and recoilless gun on two areas in the same district.

In Battambang Province, the coalition troops on May 22 poured 100 shells of 130mm and 85mm artillery and H.12 recoilless gun into highland regions 179 and 172, Phnom Penh Zone [as received], some 16km northwest of Treng, and into an area near Bavel District.

On May 23 they also engaged government forces in an area 12km northwest of Kompong Trach District, Kampot Province.

Moreover, the tripartite troops conducted sabotage acts and robbed the property of peasants in Siem Reap, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Thom Provinces during these days.

1990-91 Dry-Season 'Great Victories' Hailed

BK2805064791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 27 May 91

[Station editorial: "Great Elation and Lofty Pride Over the Great Capacity To Take Responsibility for the Defense of One's Own Country"]

[Text] Last dry season had witnessed the skillful capability of our Armed Forces and people in taking responsibility for the tasks to defend the motherland and the national achievements and prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to Cambodia.

The great victories we won in thwarting the warlike activities of the genocidal alliance had foiled its plan to launch large-scale offensives and caused its so-called strategic opportunity for launching military offensives aimed at toppling our regime to pass by without leaving any stroke of luck for it.

These defeats suffered by the genocidal alliance have seriously demoralized its soldiers. Due to the defeats suffered on all battlefields, particularly in Battambang Province which—unlike other areas—is the battle zone monopolized by the Pol Pot clique, the partners in the genocidal alliance have lost their trust in the military capability of the Pol Pot clique.

The current rainy season has witnessed the unchanging maneuvers of the opposition groups which still want to topple us through military means. As a matter of fact, they have exerted all their might, using infantrymen, tanks, armored personnel carriers, and artillery, and firing hundreds and even thousands of shells daily in an attempt to threaten and discourage our cadres, combatants, and people. On the contrary, everything ended with their most shameful and bitter defeats.

Definitely, the resounding victories won on the military field in this 1990-91 dry season are of great significance to the present revolutionary situation. The great victories won successively by our Armed Forces and people through their heroism, sense of self-reliance, and arduous struggle, enduring hardship and obstacles and making all kinds of sacrifice, have enabled the situation in all aspects to continue developing favorably and created conditions favorable to the cause of our struggle in this new stage.

Displayed through last dry-season campaigns are the great efforts, determination, and unity among all sectors and all levels under the party leadership, with the front-line and the rear battlefields uniting firmly as fish and water, thus creating a strong combined force for serving the battlefield. Our people's confidence in our Armed Forces' capacity to take responsibility for the defense of the motherland has increased.

We are very happy and proud of the concrete achievements scored by our Armed Forces in defending themselves and the peaceful life of our people. Our Armed Forces pledge to jointly strive to protect the victories we won last dry season and successfully carry out all tasks and measures set forth at the meeting to sum up the dry-season work, thus maintaining and strengthening our superiority throughout the country.

We are firmly convinced that with the experiences gained in the past year and the firm determination of all levels, sectors, and units, we will surely achieve more feats of arms.

Article Views Factional Clashes Near Rail Line

BK2705010991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0111 GMT 27 May 91

[Article by Leo Dobbs: "Train Journeys in Cambodia Can Be a Hazardous Affair"]

[Text] On the Phnom Penh-Takeo Train, Cambodia, May 27 (AFP)—Min Soeum manned the heavy Soviet-made machine gun, on the ready against Khmer Rouge attacks that have left several of his colleagues dead in the past.

The young guard was one of 30 soldiers escorting the 7:00 A.M. train on the four-hour trip from Phnom Penh to the provincial capital of Takeo.

The 70 kilometre (40 mile) run to Takeo is safe, but foreigners are not allowed to carry on to the key ports of Kampot and Kompong Som because of the danger of hit and run resistance guerrilla attacks.

"From Phnom Penh to Takeo there is no place for the Khmer Rouge to attack. From Takeo to Kompong Som there is jungle and mountains," one passenger said of the powerful resistance group.

Min Soeum, who also works the line northwest from Phnom Penh to Battambang every other month, said he was attacked near Kampot in early July 1990.

Two soldiers died, but a bigger attack in Kompong Chhnang on the Battambang route the same month left eight of his colleagues dead along with dozens of civilian casualties, he said.

He said the Khmer Rouge never attacked the line up to Takeo. But he added: "I am often afraid from Takeo to Kompong Som as most of the time the enemy attacks or plants mines here."

Most travellers on the train seemed unperturbed, with soldiers napping in hammocks as Min Soeum tended the big 14.5 mm gun which took up most of the space in a car near the middle of the train.

Train driver Sok Choeun is also a veteran of the risky run and his scars bear witness to the seven times he has come under attack.

In April last year shrapnel from a rocket propelled grenade hit him in the shoulder and hand.

He was lucky—seven people were killed in the attack on the train, that provides a cheap way of travel for villages along its route.

Commuters and traders with belongings and market goods pack the inside and top of the rickety freight and passenger carriages. Still more ride two flat bed cars which are coupled to the front of the 1969-vintage diesel locomotive.

The flat beds are meant to cushion the blow from mines, but dozens of people cram onto them because it is easier to load and offload goods.

Dried fish trader Chin Meoun, 25, said she was "not scared of the Khmer Rouge, but I am afraid of mines."

"My family is worried about me making the journey," said the girl on her way to Takeo at a round trip fare of 440 riels (about 60 cents).

Fellow traveller Kong Phoeung, 35, was on the train when it was mined in 1985 at Tek Ambel just before Takeo.

"Many people died and the train was derailed," she said, adding that she was unharmed but "very afraid."

The slow easy run to Takeo lulls passengers into a sense of security, but the government takes no chances on the strategic line to its major seaport.

In addition to the heavily armed escorts, a radio car behind the engine keeps in regular contact with the Army and with major stations along the line.

On a recent trip, Phnom Penh called in to check if all was okay as the train eased out of another dusty station among the arid fields.

When they had signed off, the radio operator tuned back to a pop music channel as though he believed that life, like the train, must roll on in embattled Cambodia.

SRV Settlers in Prey Veng Said Increasing

BK1005031491 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 9 May 91

["Report on Increasing Numbers of Vietnamese Settlers in Prey Veng Province"]

[Excerpt] Reports from Prey Veng Province say that increasing numbers of Vietnamese nationals are currently settling down in the province. Apart from plundering our people's land, villages, and crops, these settlers are also plundering farmland and fish-rich waterways, canals, and lakes.

These Vietnamese settlers are of two types. In the first category are those who have settled down permanently and are earning a living in our people's villages, lakes, and waterways. In the second category are those comprising only men and women who can work and earn a living. They come to Prey Veng Province over the Cambodian-Vietnamese border in Peam Chor and Kompong Trabek Districts. These people come and stay for a week or two, for a month at most, and then return to Vietnam. They are cruel and savage like those permanently settled; they plunder, rob, and steal everything in sight.

These Vietnamese settlers are Vietnamizing everything in our Prey Veng Province from demography, traditions, and customs, down to clothing. [passage omitted]

Ieng Muli Appeals for Measures Against SRV

BK2905080891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Ieng Muli, general secretary of the Executive Committee of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, said that at the meeting in Jakarta early next month, "there will be a reexamination of the 26 November 1990 draft agreement, the document prepared after the five major powers' framework document for solving the Cambodian problem. He also appeals to the Hun Sen side to soften its attitude in the name of Cambodia. If Vietnam still wants to control Cambodia and the Hun Sen side still sticks to an intransigent stance on solving the Cambodian problem, Ieng Muli said the five major powers should take measures similar to those taken against Iraq to liberate Kuwait.

In an interview with a Voice of the Khmer [VOK]'s correspondent last Thursday, Ieng Muli said that at previous meetings the Hun Sen side never said it opposes the five major powers' documents and that this side accepts the majority of the points in the document. However, after the meetings, this group rejected all the major points of the five major powers' peace plan, such as the rejection of the temporary administration of Cambodia by the United Nations.

Replying to a question on the degree of his optimism at the forthcoming meeting in Jakarta, Ieng Muli said he prayed that the Hun Sen side would be Cambodian in its thinking so that peace could return to Cambodia. He also prayed that this group would stop having illusions about the power given it by foreigners. Ieng Muli said the five countries' framework plan resulted from a disagreement among Cambodians because there is a group of Cambodians serving Vietnam's interests. Therefore, if this factor is taken into account, the five countries should take measures the way the five major powers did in Iraq to liberate Kuwait, because Vietnam still wants to occupy Cambodia.

The KPNLF has agreed to attend the meeting in Jakarta at the invitation of Indonesia and pledged to strive to reach an agreement for the benefit of peace in Cambodia. The meeting in Jakarta will take place from 2 to 4 June.

VOK will broadcast the interview with Ieng Muli at a later date.

SRV, Phnom Penh Cease-Fire Violations Alleged

BK2905043891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 May 91

[Station commentary: "Vietnam and Its Lackeys—the Puppets—Have Arrogantly and Truculently Violated the Temporary Cease-Fire Proposed by the UN Secretary General and Co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia"]

[Text] As of 1 May, the day when the UN secretary general and the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] proposed a temporary cease-fire in Cambodia until the conclusion of the Jakarta meeting, Vietnam and its lackeys—the puppets—have never observed this cease-fire for a single day. On the contrary, taking advantage of the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR] forces' acceptance of the cease-fire, Vietnam and its puppet-lackeys have turned to strengthen and mobilize their forces to launch offensives in an attempt to seize the areas controlled by the CNR forces to serve their deceitful diplomacy. The real events concerning the Vietnamese-puppet offensives against our CNR forces throughout the country in violation of this cease-fire are as follows:

On Route 10-Battambang battlefield, on 1, 2, and 3 May, the first days of the cease-fire, the Hanoi authorities and their puppet-lackeys sent thousands of troops, including Vietnam's 330th, 4th, and 8th Divisions, the puppet-Vietnamese divisions No. 4, 196, and 6, and the capital city's division, together with many tanks and artilleries, to launch onslaughts into the CNR's liberated zones both north and south of Route 10. From 9 to 11 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent 500 troops, escorted by six tanks and assorted artilleries, from Sdau and Route 10 to attack our CNR liberated zone north of Route 10.

On Sisophon battlefield south of Route 5 in Battambang Province, on 3 and 4 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent 1,300 troops from Vietnam's 5th Division, puppet 196th Division, and a number of provincial and district units together with three multiple rocket batteries and six 122-mm, 130-mm, and 82-mm cannons to attack our CNR liberated zones.

On Sisophon-Malai battlefield, from 29 April to 3 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent 600 troops, three tanks, and assorted artilleries to attack our CNR liberated zones at Ta Kuong and Bos Thom.

On West Battambang battlefield, between 1 to 5 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent three regiments of forces—the 3d, 2d, and 25th Regiments—to attack our CNR liberated zones at Prek Thom and (Boeng Laok).

On East Battambang battlefield, between 1 to 3 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent hundreds of troops together with three tanks to attack our CNR liberated zones.

On the battlefield in Stoeng Trang District of Kompong Cham Province, between 1 and 10 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent troops from Prey Veng and Kompong Cham to attack our CNR liberated zone at Tuol Khlong village.

On the battlefield in Stung Treng Province, on 1 May, the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys sent troops from the provincial seat to attack our CNR liberated zone at Phnheah Roloek and Sre Veal villages.

The Vietnamese enemies and their puppet-lackeys launched all these military activities simultaneously with their intensified dispatch of more Vietnamese troops to Cambodia and recruitment of troops in Cambodia. This proves clearly that the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys have not abided by the cease-fire call made by the UN secretary general and the PICC co-chairmen. They have arrogantly and truculently violated this cease-fire.

All these activities have enabled the world community to become even more well aware of the tricky and cunning nature of the Hanoi authorities. The world community has thus realized the need to further pressure the Hanoi authorities and their puppet-lackeys to agree to settle the Cambodian problem in line with the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the draft agreement dated 26 November 1990.

The CNR forces fully accept the five UNSC permanent members' document and draft agreement dated 26 November 1990. All the modalities, including that on the cease-fire, have been clearly defined in these documents. If only the Vietnamese and their puppet-lackeys accept and honestly abide by these documents, the settlement of the Cambodian problem will certainly be fully achieved.

Laos

Vientiane, Guangdong Sign Cooperation Agreement

BK2405133091 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Vientiane, May 24 (KPL)—An agreement on economic cooperation between Vientiane Municipality of Laos and Guangdong Province of China was signed here yesterday.

Parties to the agreement are the Municipal Service of Agriculture and Forestry on the Lao side and a cattle raising farm of Guangdong Province on the Chinese side.

This agreement was concluded within the framework of a memorandum signed last year between Vientiane Municipality and Guangdong Province, according to which the Chinese province will help establish here pilot fruit trees, industrial trees and flowers plantations, send experts here to conduct surveys for cow meat, fish and egg layers raising projects.

Phoumi Vongvichit Accepts German Gifts

BK2905121091 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Vientiane, May 29 (KPL)—The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the international children's day has provided US$ 9,025 worth of aid as gifts to Laos children. The gifts include 4,300 metres of textile fabric and a number of office appliances.

FRG's Ambassador to Laos Claus Soeksen, on behalf of his government, presented the gifts to president of the Lao National Commission for International Children's Year at a ceremony held here yesterday morning.

Phoumi Vongvichit, on behalf of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] Government, expressed thanks through the ambassador to his government, that, in addition to these gifts, has annually provided aid to Lao children. This would help further develop solidarity and friendship between the two countries.

Danielle Mitterrand To Visit Laos 'Soon'

BK2805152691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] According to a press release issued by the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU] Central Committee, Mrs. Danielle Mitterrand, chairperson of the Organization France Liberte and wife of the French president, will pay a visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic soon at the invitation of Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, member of the Supreme People's Assembly and first secretary of the LPRYU Central Committee .

During her stay in Laos, she will hold talks with the LPRYU Central Committee, visit a number of economic, educational, and cultural institutions, and pay courtesy calls on party and state leaders.

The Organization France Liberte is a French mass organization which has been playing an important role in humanitarianism.

UNDP Finances Irrigation Project

BK2405133291 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Vientiane, May 24 (KPL)—A small irrigation project in the northern Laos recently established in the northern Oudomsai Province has received 400 million U.S. dollars grant from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The grant will be used for the agricultural development and the construction of small irrigation projects in the northern provinces. Since the beginning of this year the trial operation of the project has been launched in Oudomsai and Luang Namtha. As a result, surveys and planning for the construction of eight small irrigation facilities have been completed so far, five in Oudomsai and three in Luang Namtha.

The project, at the same time, has opened a course on irrigation to train cadres to be in charge of these facilities.

Government Issues Instruction on Rice Production

BK2605104191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 May 91

["Text" of 9 May instruction on 1991 rainy season production issued by the Council of Ministers—read by announcer]

[Text] Despite drought, floods, and the spread of pests in many localities, the leadership of sectors and localities worked hard in line with their roles and duties to boost agricultural production in 1990. Thanks to our multiethnic farmers who have been working diligently and vigorously in agricultural production, our country's productivity in 1990 expanded at a satifactory rate. The production of grains and crops, animal husbandry, and other agricultural products also registered remarkable growth which, in turn, helped further improve the people's livelihood.

However, apart from these achievements, we still have many shortcomings to overcome. The multiethnic people in many localities such as those in the remote areas are left to produce crops in a very primitive manner. Production does not correspond with market demand which has not yet played an active role in promoting production. Sectors and agencies concerned have not yet coordinated closely in agricultural production and other spheres of work. The guidance provided by many agencies and localities is too general and ineffective and has no fixed objectives. Hence, the agricultural production in the past season was not as successful as it should have been.

To ensure better results for the monsoon rice production for 1991, the first year for the implementation of the fifth party congress resolution, the Council of Ministers issues the following instruction:

1. All sectors and localities are instructed to expeditiously and with a high sense of responsibility work out plans for their contribution to the 1991 agricultural production. All localities are required to draw up their major production projects and calculate the required capital, manpower, and technology needed for the projects.

2. The Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic will cooperate with all sectors concerned to provide different forms of credit services for farmers such as rice and cattle banks and so on. The Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance will provide loans with interest rates stipulated in Announcement No. 08 of the Council of Ministers dated 4 May 1990.

3. The Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance is instructed to expeditiously cooperate with all sectors concerned with reviewing the agricultural tax policy, the policy of guaranteeing minimum prices for export-oriented crops and agricultural products, the subsidy policy, and prices of fertilizer and pesticides, seeds, and electricity rates for irrigation on the basis of the Resolution No. 14 dated 20 March 1987.

4. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will study and review rules and regulations governing the system of land

ownership and utilization, the use of chemicals for agricultural purposes, veterinary work, the use of machinery and water for irrigation, and other issues as it deems necessary.

5. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will cooperate with agencies concerned such as the Ministries of Communications, Transport, Industry, Trade, Public Health, and all localities in working out budgetary plans, launching the undertakings in connection with this rainy season cultivation in conformity with weather conditions in each area and procuring seeds, fertilizer, pesticide, and water pumps to serve the production of different crops as deemed necessary and requested by farmers.

6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will cooperate with all localities in encouraging potential farmer families to join in the intensive agricultural program and in making use of the lessons drawn from the implementation of the pilot project launched in Vientiane Municipality during the 1990 monsoon rice cultivation season.

7. The Ministry of Trade and Tourism will take the initiative, supervise, and promote the production and purchase of rice and agricultural products through some state-owned and private companies; sign agreements with farmers on crop prices; improve the distribution procedure to ensure the sufficient supply of food in society; and swiftly seek reliable foreign markets for our products which can be exported in large quantities on a regular basis.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will act as the coordination center for all agencies and localities concerned in finding effective methods and measures for the implementation of this instruction. Any subsequent inconveniences and difficulties must be reported to the Council of Ministers through regular channels.

Agriculture Deputy Minister Visits Houa Phan

BK2905121491 Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Vientiane, May 29 (KPL)—Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr. Akhom Tounalom in mid-May toured and inspected agricultural activities in the northern Houa Phan Province.

His inspection was targetted at the extraction of podocarpus imbricatus in Sam Neua District, the Lao-American cooperation project in Houa Meuang and Viangthong Districts, tree nursery, the road construction connecting Pakha and Naleng in Houa Meuang, the development of new settlements in Viangthong District.

Philippines

Communist Plans Against U.S. Military Revealed

HK2905043691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 29 May 91 p 6

[Text] Communist guerrillas have planned to conduct commando-type sabotage operations against American and local military installations in the country to destroy radar and vital communications facilities, supply centers and arsenals as well as aircraft and helicopters to recover their lost grounds, captured rebel documents revealed.

Copies of the captured documents obtained by THE CHRONICLE outlined the guerrillas two-year military campaign plan (July 1989 to July 1991) to launch a national coordinated military tactical offensives as well as political activities to weaken the military's tactical units, dismantle the Peace and Order Council (POC) and the Citizens Armed Force Geographial Unit (Cafgu) forces, and punish Americans and other foreign groups for helping the Aquino administration in its anti-rebel drive.

The entire nine-point military campaign plan drafted by the New People's Army general command was reviewed and discussed by senior field commanders during a conference at Camp Aguinaldo Monday.

The rebels, according to the captured documents, wanted very much to dismantle the POC and the Cafgu because these organizations had strengthened the anti-rebel warfare through the linkages established between the military, the government and the non-government organizations, including the church in fighting communist insurgency.

AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia said the two-year rebel plan was the apparent "strategic" and "tactical" counter-plan of the guerrillas to reverse the gains of the military's campaign plan, "Lambat-Bitag." [Net Trap].

The guerrillas have two main potent "weapons against the government—political and military activities which are aimed at demoralizing the ranks of the armed forces through sustained annihilative and commando operations as agitation and propaganda activities to isolate the government from popular support.

The military targets of the New People's Army are remote and isolated police and Cafgu detachments as well as small unit patrols.

Commando operations are focused on the destruction of radar and communications facilities, supply and munitions depot, helicopters and aircraft and their bases and airstrips, armored vehicles, artillery pieces, trucks and keeps [word as published] and other bigger tactical targets which are of no tactical use for the guerrillas like power and communications lines.

Abadia said they have found indications that the two-year military plan was the rebels counter-Lambat-Bitag plan because of two major considerations in the rebels' tactical offensive plan.

The rebels prescribed a widespread and intense military offensive, including small unit harassment missions to prevent concentration of forces and to prevent the military from pinpointing the exact nerve center of guerrilla activity.

The rebels also planned sporadic sabotage operations even in areas where they have a weaker force and support base to confuse the AFP and divert the military's offensive away from their strong guerrilla bases.

Reportage Continues on U.S. Bases Treaty

Aquino, Senators on Ratification

HK2805151791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 May 91

[By Dick Synchongco of DZRH Unit No. 6]

[Text] It is possible for the Senate to change its decision and favor the military bases treaty which is now being finalized for ratification by the Philippines and the United States. This was gathered at a breakfast meeting called by President Cory Aquino in Malacanang and attended by 11 senators. The president presented to the senators the compensation package dubbed a package of benefits for the Philippines.

According to Senator Neptali Gonzalez, one of the senators who attended the meeting, the president hinted that it is possible that a treaty can be reached and signed between the Philippines and the United States in just a few days. This is in relation to the retention extension of the U.S. bases in the Philippines. Gonzalez said that an agreement on compensation will soon be reached by the two countries. According to him, the compensation package is divided into two parts: the budgetary component, which will have to be approved by the U.S. Congress, and the nonbudgetary component, which will consist of medical and military equipment.

Senator Vicente Paterno opined that the chances of the bases treaty being ratified by the senators have become greater as a result of the meeting with the president in Malacanang.

Orbos, Quayle Talks 'Fruitful'

HK2805151991 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Philippines and the United States have already agreed on the issue of compensation in exchange for the continued stay of the American bases. According to Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, the bases compensation package will consist of two parts, with the first part to be appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

Estanislao also added that the United States has agreed to conduct an annual review every December to study the disposition of the funds under the compensation package.

In a related development, Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos reported that his talks with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle in India had been fruitful. Orbos represented the president and the country at the funeral of assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Nonetheless, Orbos clarified that they have agreed to leave the decision on the ratification of a new bases treaty to their respective legislative branches, specifically to the Senate. He also added that Quayle promised to respect the result of the study to be undertaken by the Senate, as a process for the ultimate signing of a new treaty between the two countries.

Talks Move to Luxembourg

HK2905121891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 29 (AFP)—Talks on the future of U.S. bases in the Philippines have moved to Luxembourg where Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus will present Manila's new offer to his American counterpart, a Philippine negotiator said here Wednesday.

Alfredo Bengzon, vice chairman of the Philippine panel, told a press briefing that Mr. Manglapus would propose a seven-year bases treaty with 640 million dollars in annual compensation, when he meets with U.S. special negotiator Richard Armitage "in the next couple of days" in Luxembourg.

Mr. Manglapus, who is in Luxembourg for a meeting of European Community and Southeast Asian nations, will also ask Washington for non-budgetary aid worth tens of millions of dollars annually, such as soft loans and trade access.

The leases for Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the largest U.S. overseas military facility, expire in September. Talks on renewal have dragged on for more than a year.

Washington's initial offer was 360 million dollars annually for a a ten-year treaty while Manila has stood firm on its demand for 825 million dollars annually for seven years.

The new Philippine offer, according to Mr. Bengzon, calls for a treaty on security cooperation and another one on economic cooperation between the two countries.

The security pact would be worth 573 million annually in budgeted funds and other aid such as surplus defense materiel and a "Buy-Philippines" program.

The economic treaty would call for another 67 million dollars for development assistance, food aid and housing investment guarantees.

It would also include non-budgetary aid for extra trade access and U.S. endorsement for concessional loans and a regional cooperation fund to which no amount have been fixed [as received].

Mr. Bengzon implied that the problem lay in convincing Washington to put a price on the non-budgetary items so the Philippine demand for 825 million dollars could be met.

"There cannot be a gap between what we claim we are getting and what the Americans are saying they are giving. The best way to ensure that is that the Philippines will acknowledge only what can be quantified and committed in the treaty," he said.

He stressed that Manila would only count as compensation amounts quanitified in a new bases treaty, adding that the United States had agreed to 640 million dollars in quantified items.

Mr. Bengzon said that the Philippine proposal also provided for a rescheduling of the country's 1.5 billion dollar official debt to the United States.

"There will be a rapid disbursement of the Economic Support Fund for budget suport to allow a debt rescheduling program expected to yield a minimum of 40 million dollars," he said.

Aquino on Details

HK2905142191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Combined reports by Tanny Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] President Aquino has assured that details of the ongoing military bases negotiations between the Philippine and U.S. panels will be made known to the public once a definite agreement has been reached.

The president said that although the government is undertaking these negotiations under the principle of transparency, there are certain steps and details that cannot be publicized yet because they might affect the process of the negotiations. The president made this statement in relation to Malacanang reporters' queries on the concrete contents of the treaty to be proposed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to U.S. Bases Special Negotiator Richard Armitage when they meet in Luxembourg during the meeting of the EC member nations.

When asked why she gave a briefing about the status of the bases negotiations to only eleven senators, the president said she would also like to meet with the other remaining senators regarding the same matter.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and U.S. Bases Special Negotiator Richard Armitage will meet once again. Manglapus will formally present the new position of the Philippines regarding the military bases to the United States. This matter was announced by Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, vice chairman of the local bases negotiating panel.

It is expected that the Philippines will receive the reply of the United States regarding this matter within two days. In relation to this, Bengzon also assured that there is no more need for another round of negotiations, much more so as the Philippine stand on the primary issues of compensation and duration is clear.

Bengzon said that the Philippines stands firm on its position for a seven-year extension of the U.S. bases in the country, including the withdrawal phase. On the matter of compensation, Bengzon said that it still contains the four primary items in the original configuration. These comprise the cash component, modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, debt relief, which stands to reach $40 million per year, and trade access. [passage omitted]

Official: Compensation Unresolved

HK2905091991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 May 91

[By Rey Arquiza of DZRH Unit No. 21; passage in italics in English]

[Text] Health Secretary Alran Bengzon today announced that until a treaty is signed by both sides on the issue of the stay of the U.S. bases in the country, no one can say that there has been an agreement. *No agreement until a treaty is signed*, was Bengzon's brief statement. Bengzon is a member of the Philippine panel on the U.S. bases talks.

In a press briefing at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Bengzon said the issue of compensation has not been resolved yet by the two sides. The gap on the compensation issue remains unresolved, although both panels are trying to find a way to agree on the Philippine demand for the retention of the U.S. bases in the country.

The Philippines is seeking $825 million, of which $400 millon represents the hard component and $425 million the soft component. According to Bengzon, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage are still talking on the issue of compensation.

Agreement Reportedly Reached

HK2905040291 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 29 May 91 p 1

[By staff member Lito Zulueta with Arleen Chipongian, Johanna Son, and Manny Mogato]

[Text] The Philippines and the United States have reached an agreement on the thorny compensation issue in the bases talks, with the final package amounting to $960 million, officials said yesterday.

But U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager denied that an agreement on the bases had been reached, saying, "There are still numbers that we have to work out." Schrager, however, said that what the two sides has agreed upon in principle was "how to get the overall figure" of the compensation.

But Philippineo officials are already saying that of the final amount agreed upon, $423 million will be in cash payment, although not necessarily to be appropriated by the U.S. Congress. (But Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao told economic reporters that direct foreign exchange inflows from the compensation would amount to $475 million.)

The rest of the package will come in the form of debt reduction, like the condonation of $150 million in annual payments by the Philippines for military credit with the U.S., and increased trade access of Philippine goods such as garments and sugar on the U.S. markets. The compensation also provides for a $200-million increase in the Philippines' garments quotas as part of the non-cash component of the deal.

The U.S. has also agreed to set up a Regional Cooperation Fund that would allow the Philippines to float "rehabilitation and development bonds" for purchase by Asian countries willing to share the burden with the Philippines of hosting the U.S. military presence in the region. Sources said Japan and South Korea have already indicated their openness of buying the bonds.

Estanislao said that part of the compensation package would come from non-budgetary support thta would

include an annual food aid of $27 million and a $25-million annual coverage under the housing and investments guarantee (HIG) program of the U.S.

Defense undersecretary Feliciano Gacis also estimated that the annual military assistance under the package could reach $150 million annually.

Estanislao confirmed that the ocmpensation package had been finalized, although he added that further talks would have to be made on "technical issues" related to the package.

The final package, as itemized by the Philippines panel, will be presented by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to U.S. Special Negotiator Richard Armitage in Luxembourg, soures said.

Manglapus left for Luxembourg last night to attend the meeting of the members and allies of the European Economic Community.

The itemization of the package followed the agreement between President Aquino and U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt to "rearrange" the components of the package and drop the distinction between "hard" and "soft" components of the package.

To ensure compliance by the Americans, the two countries have also agreed to form a "programmed review group" that will monitor the implementation of the accord annually, especially on payments.

Press Secretary Tomaz Gomez III said the yearly review is an alternative to the "best-effort pledge" of the current military bases agreement, a provision that has been the source of dissatisfaction for the Philippines since while the U.S. Executive branch may agree to a certain amount of payment for the bases, the amount could be reduced by the U.S. Congress, which has the power of the purse.

Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes said the yearly review is a vast improvement to the Manglapus-Shultz Agreement of Oct. 17, 1988 that provides for a review of the MBA [Military Bases Agreement] every two years.

Paredes said the yearly review would make sure that the U.S. does not commit any shortfall in payments once a new bases agreement is in place.

Japanese Emergence Seen as U.S. Reduces Forces

HK2705023491 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 27 May 91 p 12

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] U.S. military reductions in the region will force the Japanese military to emerge from its shell, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said in a confidential report to President Aquino dated April 14.

The report was made in anticipation of the deployment early this month of Japanese Self-Defense Force [SDF] minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. Mr. Manglapus said it was a positive move given the benefits to commercial shipping.

In his report, however, the foreign secretary expressed concern that "in recent times, Japan has sought to project itself more in politico-military terms."

The Japanese minesweepers made what were euphemistically termed "refuelling stops" at Subic, Malaysia and Singapore before proceeding to the Gulf.

Because the three ASEAN countries are "geographically near Japan, there would be no serious need for refuelling stops for the SDF vessels in these countries," Mr. Manglapus observed in his report.

Regional Support

"Hence," he reasoned, "it would appear that the Japanese requests for port calls in the three ASEAN countries plus Sri Lanka and India are aimed more at gathering visible indications of regional support for the Japanese plan and acceptance of Japanese military presence in regional seas."

According to the report, last year, the Japanese had sought the opinion of ASEAN members on the political viability of Japanese SDF troops participating in the proposed UN peacekeeping force for Cambodia.

Because of budget restrictions, the U.S. military has moved to effect force cutbacks in the region. Tokyo will, therefore, have "to contemplate effective measures for Japan's own national defense and the protection of its extensive economic interests."

"It is not surprising that the Japanese Government now feels increasingly the need to emerge from the 'shell' imposed on it by the anti-military provisions of its own constitution," Mr. Manglapus said.

The task force, which arrived here May 4, to coincide with the visit of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, was composed of a command ship, four minesweepers and a supply vessel. It was the first time since World War II that a Japanese military unit has been deployed for a nontraining mission.

Regional Security Meet Set 6-7 Jun in Manila

HK2705045491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 May 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and at least 10 countries laying major stakes in the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region will meet early next month in Manila to discuss ways of ensuring regional stability amid perceived threats in potential conflict areas, the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] said over the weekend.

The two-day non-governmental regional conference on security will address the security perspectives and policies of the four major powers (the United States, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Japan, and China) towards the Asia-Pacific region and consolidate a collective response of the ASEAN countries to the fast changing geo-political landscape that would guarantee regional stability.

Representatives of the ASEAN states—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines together with China, Japan the U.S., the USSR, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, and Australia will be discussing the issues affecting the security framework in the Asia-Pacific basin. Four Latin American countries in the pacific rim—Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Mexico—were invited as observers.

While there has been signifant security development following the Cold War thaw, defense planners said that there were still potential conflict areas where a major war is ready to explode, such as the Korean peninsula, Indochina and the four-nation dispute in the Spratley Islands in the South China sea where Malaysia, Vietnam, China, and the Philippines have partial or total claims.

Faced with these potential conflicts, the security conference tries to "examine the question of how conflict resolution and confidence building measures have been applied to the region, and obstacles which hinder the successful resolution of existing conflicts," a paper released by the DFA noted.

The pre-conference paper annotating the agenda for the security talks scheduled June 6 to 7, added that the policies and intentions of the four powers towards the Asia-Pacific region would be the prime consideration for the "ASEAN to determine the prospects for security cooperation within the region."

"As the region faces the likelihood of a reduced U.S. military presence, there is a need to consider the implications of this development on regional security, particularly the ASEAN states," the paper noted.

It added that the "developments in Japan (more aggressive, more involved foreign policy), China (cautious recovery from the backlash of Tiananmen), and the USSR (challenge to the leadership and national unity) tend to amplify the level of uncertainty and unpredictability within the region."

"These factors have significant implications for regional security, given the prospects of a reduced U.S. presence even as the U.S. military forces remain stationed in Korea and Japan and its access to facilities in Singapore is increased."

While strategic issues will be the focus of the conference, ways and appropriate responses to the "impending emergence of an integrated European market," which has made Asia-Pacific states apprehensive about their economic security, will also be discussed.

"The preeminence of economic interests in bilateral and multilateral relations has brought about a distinct change in perceptions of what constitutes security."

Although any consensus reached by the conference will not be binding in keeping with the spirit of the 1976. Bali Concord setting security dialog and cooperation outside the framework of the ASEAN, the talks however is expected to come up with policy recommendations to be considered by the ASEAN heads of government in their summit in Singapore early next year for a possible formalization of a security cooperation in the ASEAN.

No Need for Regional Security Arrangement Seen

HK2905023391 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Congressman Bonifacio Gillego expressed the belief that a military agreement is not needed to ensure security in the Asia-Pacific region. Gillego issued the statement in relation to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus' proposal for an Asia-Pacific security arrangement based on NATO. The security arrangement is being planned in preparation for the coming dismantling of the U.S. military bases in the country. Representative Gillego also said that the United States will still be a power in the Asia-Pacific even without its military bases in the Philippines. He claimed that ASEAN members' fears, such as occupation by strong communist countries like Vietnam, China, or Russia, have subsided. He added that ASEAN should only work toward the goal of maintaining friendly relations.

Justice Secretary: Foreign Agents Must Register

HK2805104191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 May 91

[By Sonny Casulla of Mobile Unit No. 9]

[Text] The Department of Justice this afternoon ordered an extensive search for nonregistered foreign agents undertaking political propaganda in the country.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon said that all foreign agents should register with the Foreign Agents Registration Division [FARD] of the Department of Justice, in pursuance of provision No. 39 of the national law. In relation to the said order, the Department of Justice revived FARD and placed it under the supervision of the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation] for the effective implementation of the said program. Drilon strictly warned foreign agents that he will file criminal charges against anyone caught violating the aforementioned law.

Earlier, Drilon discovered that not a single foreign agent has been registered with FARD since its establishment in November 1969. Drilon also added that violators will receive five years imprisonment or a fine of 10,000 pesos.

Bank Reserve Requirements 'Highest' in Region

HK2705045691 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 May 91 p 8

[Text] Philippine banks shoulder the highest reserve requirement among banks within the Association of Southern Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, according to figures from the Asian Development Bank. [ADB]

In addition, while the reserve requirement levels in other ASEAN countries have declined or at least been maintained from 1980 to 1990, the Philippine rate increased from 20 percent to 25 percent, the figures showed.

Among the ASEAN countries, Indonesia has the lowest reserve requirement of 2 percent in 1990, down from 15 percent in 1980.

Malaysia has 4.5 percent, less than half of the 10 percent level in 1980, while Thailand has maintained its reserve requirement at 7 percent.

Among the effects of the high reserve requirement, under which Philippine banks must deposit 25 centavos with the Central Bank for every peso deposited with them, is that local banks are able to lend out less than their ASEAN counterparts from every peso of deposits they generate.

"The high reserve requirement is a major hindrance to making available more financing at lower rates," a banking source said.

"It has also served as a negative factor to the growth of the banking sector in the Philippines," he added.

The Philippine banking system is the smallest in size in the region, and one with the lowest growth since 1980, the ADB figures also indicated.

The Philippine commercial bank system's total assets hovered below $10 billion from 1985 to 1987, before reaching $11 billion in 1988.

In contrast, the Malaysia bank's total assets were more than double that of the Philippines, hovering at about $27 billion, before hitting $30 billion in 1988.

The biggest banking system in the region is in Thailand, which in 1988 held assets of $48 billion, five times as big as that of the Philippines. Thai bank's assets had grown steadily from $32 billion in 1985, to $34 billion in 1986, and to $43 billion in 1987.

IMF, Foreign Banks Expected To Release Funds

HK2705053291 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 27 May 91 p 5

[Text] The Philippines will receive fresh money inflows amounting to $152.7 million from the foreign commercial banks and the International Monetary Fund next month, following its favorable first-quarter economic performance, Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia Jr. said.

In a report to the Joint Executive-Legislative Debt Council, dated May 20, Cuisia said that the IMF is expected to disburse $37.7 million by the second week of June. The amount is the second tranche of the $900-million facility tied to the 18-month standby arrangement program the country has with the IMF.

At the same time, Cuisia reported that the debt negotiating panel he and Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao head is waiting for the reponse of the foreign commercial banks until the end of May on whether they would still accept the complementary financing scheme [CFS] minus a paying agent.

The banks and the Asian Development Bank [ADB] are at odds over a paying agent. The banks want one; ADB does not.

Cuisia said the "manager of the ADB co-financing unit indicated that ADB is not prepared to amend its present CFS to accommodate the proposed structure of the commercial banks. Nevertheless, we are still pursuing the matter and we will know before the end of May whether we should look at other approaches."

He added that this would trigger the release of the $115-million third and final tranche of the $715-million 1990 new money from creditor banks before the end of next month.

Cuisia's report indicates that the foreign creditor banks have agreed to the request of the Philippine government to tie up the last tranche to the new short-term IMF program.

The country earlier expressed concern over the stand of the commercial banks tying the 1990 new-money package to the earlier three-year IMF extended fund facility (EFF), which should have been in place from 1989-91. The country last year abandoned this program following its repeated failure to meet its targets.

The release of the $152.7 million will further beef up the country's international reserves, which as of May 9 stood at $3.069 billion.

The disbursement will be made following the favorable economic performance of the country in the first quarter this year.

In his report, Cuisia added: "We have determined compliance with all the performance criteria, except for the public-sector borrowing requirement for which all data are not yet available but on which no problem is anticipated. Barring any untoward developments, the IMF tranche will be available for drawing starting the second week of June 1991."

The country met the fiscal and monetary criteria tied to the new short-term economic stabilization program, including the money supply and the net international reserves levels.

In addition to these criteria, other parameters monitored by the IMF are the short-term foreign borrowings and the Oil Price Stabilization Fund deficit.

The country's fiscal operations had also been showing positive signs and ended the first four months of the year with a surplus of P4.6 billion.

Cebu Governor Praises Local Autonomy Movement

HK2705122291 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 25 May 91 p 8

[Text] Iligan City—Cebu Gov. Emilio Osmena said yesterday that President Aquino's policy of "people empowerment" can be given full meaning and substance through decentralization and granting more power to local officials.

Speaking before local and provincial officials of Northern Mindanao during the launching of the Local Autonomy Movement of the Philippines here, Osmena said it is only through local autonomy that the "true essence of democracy" can be said to be working in the country.

Osmena noted that "while our form of government is democratic, in actual practice it is not" due to a government which is overly centralized and "which continues to refuse to share power with local government units."

"For instance, national funds are allocated by officials who are not elected by the people and are thus not answerable to the voters," Osmena explained.

The Cebu governor pointed out that in the 1990 budget of P216 billion [pesos] barely 2 per cent or P4.5 billion was allocated to local government units.

Even the Supreme Court has noted the national government's apparent refusal to share its power with the local government, Osmena said. In a landmark decision, the High Court upheld the right of Rizal Gov. Reynaldo San Juan to appoint the provincial budget chief officer, not by the budget secretary as claimed by Malacanang.

"I believe that local governments should have more share not only in funding but also in functions. Toward this end, the functions of the Cabinet should be reduced in half, particularly in infastructure development," he said.

Osmena also lamented that the constitutional mandate for decentralization was not being tackled by the Bicameral Conference Committee in Congress.

The proposed Local Government Code has been approved by the Senate and the House and its conflicting provisions are being ironed out by the committee.

Thailand

Austrian Airliner Owner on Bomb Threat Report

BK2905020991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 May 91 p A3

[Excerpt] Niki Lauda, owner of the Lauda Air jetliner that exploded over Suphan Buri Sunday night, yesterday said he was not aware of the report that a Bangkok-based employee had threatened a bombing more than a year ago in an extortion attempt.

Lauda was commenting on an ASSOCIATED PRESS report quoting an anonymous security officer of a Western embassy that the man demanded money and threatened to bomb an airplane or office of Lauda Air in Bangkok.

"At Lauda Air, we have a staff of 506 employees. People come and go. But I've never heard of such a threat," Lauda said.

There has been considerable speculation that a bomb was planted aboard the Lauda Air Boeing 767 that exploded and crashed late Sunday, apparently killing all 223 people on board.

AP also reported that the security official said the airline employee, described as connected to a rich family, was fired after being exposed, and subsequently hired by Thai Airways International.

He said the story was well known in Bangkok's airline circles, although he himself had only sketchy information. Officials at Lauda Air could not be immediately contacted for comment.

Aviation experts and the plane's owner yesterday inspected the site of the crash—the first of a Boeing 767 and the 12th worst in commercial aviation history.

Early reports said lightning might have hit the jet, but the Bangkok weather office said there were only scattered clouds and light rain in the area at the time. There were no reports that other planes had weather-related problems. [passage omitted]

Border Police Seal Site

BK2905020591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 91 p 3

[Text] More than 1,000 Border Patrol Police [BPP] sealed off the jungle crash site of Lauda Air Flight 004 in Dan Chang District, Suphan Buri, yesterday as relief workers searched for the bodies of victims for a second day.

Workers found another 45 bodies in the hilly area yesterday, bringing the number recovered so far to 183.

There were 223 people aboard the Boeing 767-300ER, which reportedly disintegrated in mid-air and rained down wreckage and bodies over a five-kilometre radius in the jungle, on a flight from Bangkok to Vienna.

Among the remains found yesterday were believed to be the bodies of the jetliner's pilot and copilot, and Khunying Phanni Winitnaiyaphak, the wife of Royal Household assistant secretary-general Winit Winitnaiyaphak, who was also aboard the flight.

The body of Chiang Mai Governor Phairat Decharin was positively identified by his sister.

The bodies of captain Thomas Welch and his copilot were found with the bodies of another man and a woman in the front section of the plane.

Officials also said yesterday that of the 213 passengers, 39 were Thais, not 38 as previously thought. Apparently, a Thai woman had boarded the plane in Hong Kong before the other 38 had boarded in Bangkok.

Yesterday, more than 1,000 BPP officers sealed off the hill where the plane wreckage was found.

A road checkpoint was set up at the foot of the hill and curious onlookers were barred from the area.

Villagers who had been at the site were told to stop looting, and those caught carrying away souvenirs of the crash were told to leave them at the checkpoint.

Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi yesterday ordered the Police Forensic Institute to help relatives of the victims identify and collect the bodies.

Committee May Need Explosive Experts

BK2905015191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 91 p 1, 3

[Text] Some members of the committee probing the Lauda Air tragedy believe it may be necessary to ask overseas explosives experts to help determine if the crash was caused by a bomb, an aviation source said last night.

The source told the BANGKOK POST, however, that this proposal will be made to the 15-man investigating committee and Lauda Air officials before proceeding.

Two options remain: to ask international experts to assist or to use local bomb experts.

But the source, who asked not to be named, said Thai bomb experts may not have enough experience with aircraft explosions.

"So far, the National Transportation Safety Board of the United States and Australia have offered to supply aviation experts, including bomb investigative specialists."

However, the move does not mean certain committee members have already concluded the tragedy which killed 223 passengers and crew on Sunday was caused by a bomb blast, he said.

So far there is no evidence to prove the theory that the Boeing 767-300ER exploded in mid air because of a bomb, although this possibility has not been ruled out.

After two days' investigation at the crash site in Dan Chang District of Suphan Buri Province, officials have not found any signs in the wreckage pointing to a bomb explosion.

The source said if there was a bomb blast, there would have been holes on the walls of the aircraft, adding there are various types of advanced explosives and this perhaps makes it necessary to ask overseas experts to help.

A member of the crash site inspection team said he does not believe the bomb theory. He told the BANGKOK POST an examination of the remains of 10 victims seated towards the rear of the jet showed they were badly burned, indicating they came under intense heat from either the engine or fuel tank.

This could mean an engine malfunction resulting in a fire which spread to the fuel tank which may explain why these passengers were badly burnt, he said.

Inspection teams were trying to identify where the badly burned passengers were seated to back this theory.

Niki Lauda, the head of Lauda Air, who arrived in Bangkok yesterday morning and flew straight to the crash site said the jetliner had "disintegrated" in the air before it crashed.

But Mr Lauda and Thai authorites refrained from concluding a bomb was responsible.

"From our investigations at the site, we can conclude that the aircraft disintegrated in the air before it hit the ground," said Sisuk Chantharangsu, head of the Thai Aviation Department and a member of the International team investigating the crash.

"Please don't use the word exploded, say disintegrated," he said, adding investigators are not ready to say what caused the 18-month-old Boeing to come apart.

Mr Lauda said: "We need to do more checking, to gather more evidence than this. It definitely disintegrated in the air and pieces came down like rain, which is one important factor.

"The cause of it we don't know. It could be an explosion, it could be anything because the millions of pieces of wreckage are just all over the place."

He said investigators told him they had not yet found any trace of explosive material.

After looking at the wreckage, the 42-year-old former world motor racing champion said it was impossible to rule out anything.

"The only thing I've learned today is that there must have been a major problem high up in the air. The only thing I can rule out is that the airplane came down in one piece and then hit the ground."

Mr Lauda, who left Bangkok last night for Austria but is expected to return, described the crash site as terrible.

"I've never seen anything in my life like this."

He said it is impossible yet to say which part of the plane hit the mountainside first.

"The airplane disintegrated in the air and then it came down like rain. There are only thousands of little pieces around. There's not one big piece left."

Mr Lauda described the wreckage as worse than that at Lockerbie in Scotland where, in 1988, a Pan Am Boeing 747 crashed after a bomb in the hold exploded. All 259 people aboard died.

"When you look at the Lockerbie crash there were bigger pieces on the ground than this plane here.

"Just to give an indication, the cockpit section of that 747 is the biggest piece you've seen from that (Lockerbie) airplane.

"The biggest piece out of this plane is maybe five metres (16.5 feet) long and two metres (6.6 feet) wide," Mr Lauda said.

"What I am interested is to find the cause for these poor people who died. All the rest I am not thinking about and I do not care. It's not important.

"The important thing is to find the cause that why 223 poor people have to die. When I know this (cause) then I can think about the rest," he said.

Mr Lauda totally rejeced claims made on Monday by AAT [Aviation Authority of Thailand] head Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong that bad weather was to blame for the accident.

Apart from Thai aviation officials, Mr Lauda was accompanied to the crash site yesterday by a team of Austrian terrorist experts and special branch men.

The Thai aviation source said yesterday that in the end information contained in the Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder would reveal the cause of the crash.

Looters Impede Investigation

BK2905015991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 May 91 p A1

[By Kokhet Chantaloelak]

[Text] Dan Chang, Suphan Buri—Villagers who looted the site of the Lauda Air jet crash not only stole valuables but have also tampered with bodies which a Thai investigator said might have provided crucial clues to the country's worst air disaster.

Captain Suthatsanaphan Khachonbun, a member of the Thai investigating committee, told THE NATION that 15 of the badly-burnt bodies recovered on Monday were initially thought to be useful to the investigation.

He said if the victims' seats on the doomed plane could be established, investigators might get useful indications about the cause of the aircraft's mid-air explosion.

More than 170 bodies have been discovered at the scene. About 100 were not burnt though most were badly mutilated, according to Suthawetsanaphan.

"There are 15 bodies which were badly burnt," he said. "They may give us some clues about the explosion."

Most of the 15 bodies were burnt beyond recognition, and there was little evidence left at the scene that could identify them, the air force officer said.

Thousands of villagers invaded the crash site Monday, picking victims through the wreckage for valuables and obstructing rescuers and investigators. Identity and travel papers were believed to have been removed along with valuables from the bodies by looters, officials said.

Police said the first team of policemen and rescuers arrived at the crash site around 1 am only to find the place swarmed with over 200 villagers.

"We have lost a lot of clues," said Suthatsanaphan.

He added that the investigating team was working with the Police Department's Institute of Forensic Medicine in an attempt to identify the charred bodies.

The body of the pilot, Thomas Welch, was discovered yesterday still strapped to his seat, officials said. There were no other details.

Suthatsanaphan said some rescuers might also have removed parts of the wreckage which should have been left in their original places for investigation.

"It might have been easier if everything was left in their original condition," he said.

Police tried to seal off the vast crash scene yesterday, but many villagers still managed to sneak in.

"The situation is much better today," remarked a police officer yesterday.

But the traffic jam caused by streams of curious villgers continued on routes to the crash site in a bamboo forest. Many vehicles were searched by police.

The presence of a large number of villagers at the crash site suprised foreigners who came to investigate the incident yesterday. The foreigners questioned why the scene was not sealed off soon after the crash.

Reporters saw at least 20 people held up by police and their hauls of watches, calculators, other electronic goods and clothing confiscated.

Reports about the "looting" were mentioned by several foreign news agencies yesterday.

Possible Postponement of U.S. Aviation Talks

BK2805112791 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 May 91 pp 7, 8

[Text] An informed source in Thai Airways International [THAI] has said that, originally, the negotiations between Thailand and the United States on the Thai-U.S. aviation rights agreement were scheduled for 7 June in Washington D.C.

According to the source, there has been no confirmation that the negotiations will be held on schedule, because Thailand's Communications Ministry has not yet confirmed its participation. However, Thailand will continue to conform to its original resolution to maintain the equality of the two sides in the negotiations.

"The negotiations may have to be postponed until an indefinite date, because the possibility of Thailand facing U.S. trade sanctions through Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, if the United States is not satisfied with Thailand's handling of the copyright and pharmaceutical patents in Thailand, will be considered first. Thailand may not want to negotiate with the United States on the aviation issue during such a period in order to show its disastisfaction with the United States' move to implement its Section 301 trade measures against Thailand," said the source.

The source went on to say that there has so far been no certainty as to whether the negotiations will be postponed because the United States has not expressed any new stance, while Thailand has remained silent. Thailand may wait to see the outcome of its trade negotiations with the United States on the Section 301 issue first. On aviation rights, if Thailand and the United States can conclude their talks with satisfactory results for both sides, the United States would earn from its present aviation rights agreement with Thailand an income of about 7,000 million baht a year, as estimated from last year's figure, while Thailand would reduce its financial loss by about 700-800 million baht for its flights from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States.

A source in the Communications Ministry has said that although the problem of Thai-U.S. aviation rights is prolonged without negotiations, there may be a temporary extension of the aviation rights agreement, which would not adversely affect either side much. Whenever the United States decides to implement its Section 301 law against Thailand, Thailand may use aviation as a retaliation measure against the United States.

"However, the negotiations originally scheduled for 17 June [as published] are expected, most likely, to be postponed, because the Communications Ministry has not yet determined details for the negotiations. The ministry has only adopted a resolution to follow a principle of equality between the negotiators in the negotiations," the informed source concluded.

'Trade Barriers' on U.S. Market Reported

BK2805020391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 May 91 p B2

["Text" of "report by the Department of Business Economics of the Commerce Ministry of the trade barriers encountered by ASEAN on the U.S. market"; second of a two-part series; for Part 1 see the article entitled "Ministry Report" in the Thailand section of the 28 May East Asia DAILY REPORT]

[Text] The US has initiated several AD [anti-dumping] and CVD [counter-vailing] investigations against ASEAN over the past years.

The arbitrary implementation of US AD/CVD law threatens ASEAN exports to the US. The frequency of US AD/CVD case constitutes a form of trade harassment. ASEAN countries have to commit considerable financial resources and time to defend AD/CVD charges. The investigations are also disruptive to trade. Several elements in US AD/CVD procedures work against the foreign exporter:

(a) Low threshold level for acceptance of AD/CVD petitions.

(b) The US Commerce Department imposes more stringent rules on initiation of investigations. It generally does not investigate whether the petitioner has 'standing,' ie represents the interests of the US domestic industry before initiating the case.

Moreover, equal opportunity should be given to the respondent to comment on the petition before any initiation decision is taken.

(c) Current AD and CVD investigations involve arduous procedures and stringent deadlines which impose considerable cost to foreign governments and companies. In this connection, products and subsidy programmes that have, in the past, been found to be non-countervailable, should not be reinvestigated.

(d) In AD©VD cases the US cumulates injury caused by imports from all countries being investigated to determine whether the domestic industry has been materially injured or threatened with injury. This is disadvantageous for small supplying countries which do not injure US industry.

(e) The US relies on 'Best Available Informatioa' (BIA) when foreign exporters refuse to 'cooperate' in responding to Department of Commerce questionnaires. The use of BIA procedures unfairly discriminate against the foreign exporters and is an impediment to legitimate trade.

(f) The US denial of an injury test for countries that are non-signatories to the GATT AD/CVD Code, unfairly discriminates against small suppliers like ASEAN and is inconsistent with the MFN [Most Favored Nation] principle of the GATT.

(g) The scope of the US Anti-Dumping and CVD laws have been expanded to include "Anti-circumvention" provisions which are not covered by the GATT Anti-dumping and CVD Codes. The Anti-circumvention law under the Omnibus trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, authorizes the US Commerce Department to extend an existing Anti-Dumping or CVD order to US imports assembled or completed in a third country which is alleged to be a circumvention centre subject to the order.

(h) The US is interested in widening the scope of the existing AD and CVD codes in the GATT by introducing Anti-Circumvention provisions in the Code. Such application of its anti-dumping and CVD laws is inconsistent with the GATT. the US efforts to widen the scope of existing GATT rules to rationalise its domestic laws could have serious adverse implications for ASEAN'S trade with the US as well as foreign investments in ASEAN.

6. Standards Testing, Labelling, Certification

A) Import Detention

Exports of food items (particularly ethnic food products) from ASEAN have had a fair share of FDA [Food and Drug Administration] detentions or rejection. The consignments were detained, stopped or delayed at several US ports on entry of grounds of filth, spoilage, presence of unsafe food additives, mandatory labelling omitted and damaged and contaminated containers.

The USFDA has not yet established defect action level (Dal or filth standards). In such cases, USFDA evaluates filth contamination on a case-by-case basis.

The stringent and complex regulations governing the importation of food products into the US appears formidable to ASEAN exporters.

B) Dolphin Safe labelling

A "Dolphin Safe" labelling bill was enacted into law as one of many amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Known as the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act, it was signed into law on November 28, 1990.

The Dolphin Safe Amendment makes it illegal to label a product as "dolphin safe" if the product contains (a) tuna harvested on the high seas by a vessel engaged in driftnet

fishing; and (b) tuna harvested in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean by a vessel using purse seine nets which are not dolphin safe.

Certain provisions have been drawn up wherein vessels with purse seine nets can be considered dolphin safe, such as, the vessels are of a type and size that the US Secretary of Commerce has determined are not capable of deploying its purse seine nets to encircle dolphins.

Such trade restrictive measure certainly impedes on the flow of fishery products which are one of main ASEAN's exports, to the US.

C) Import ban of fresh fruits

Export of fresh fruits such as mangoes and longans to the US is banned primarily due to the alleged presence of seed weevil disease in the country. To disprove such allegations, a nationwide survey of mango producing areas was conducted in 1987 to determine the presence of seed weevil pest. While the survey results revealed the absence of the disease, a re-survey was recommended to conform to the US Department of Agriculture's required sample size.

The US could open its market for ASEAN fresh fruits by considering the existing fumigation process being applied on exports to Japan. Import ban of such products are major obstacles to exports of ASEAN.

D) Purity Specification of Philippine Natural Grade (PNG) Carrageenan

PNG carrageenan which has an acid insoluble matter (AIM) level higher than the 2 percent limit set by the US has not been allowed to enter the US as food additive because it is considered toxic.

On July 12, 1990 the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) issued a ruling that PNG carrageenan meets the US requirements, thus allowing the Philippines to export said product to the US as food additive. However, said decision is being reconsidered upon representing the US carrageenan industry to the USFDA on the grounds that: (a) there are differences in the purity and identity between the PNG carrageenan and US carrageenan; and (b) PNG carrageenan process causes water insoluble impurities.

The Philippines has been requesting the USFDA to reaffirm its July 12, 1990 decision because there is no scientific evidence establishing that PNG carrageenan is toxic.

E) USFDA Import Regulation on Perishable Foods

The USFDA has developed a new policy covering the importation of perishable foods as announced in the Federal Register on July 6, 1989. It covers only such foods as fresh fish, fresh seafoods and fresh produce which are sampled by the USFDA.

The policy requires that all perishable foods sampled for inspection will be detained for a maximum of 1 ½ days for the inspection procedure. In the past all perishable foods were immediately released, and recalled only if the sample segregated for inspection was later found violating existing rules.

Such policy of inspection would adversely affect the marketing of these product.

7. Environmental issue.

A) The anti-tropical timber campaign

There is a tendency for the campaign to be clouded by emotion and without proper understanding of the management of tropical forests. Faced with strong pressure from groups and individuals who are concerned about the environment, a number of developed countries including the US are contemplating the use of regulations which are injurious to the developemnt of tropical timber industries and trade in timber products.

B) Environmental Legislation

Recently there have been an increasing number of US Trade Legislation that have been enacted or are pending approval in the Congress that call for unilateral trade sanction against US trading partners on environmental grounds.

Although ASEAN recognized and supports the need to protect and preserve the environment, ASEAN is concerned over the linkage between trade and environmental issues. The US should, in any circumstances, implement legislation or enact new laws that would enable unilteral trade restrictions based on environment concerns.

The US efforts to address environmental concerns are best handled at the sources of the problem and not linked to non-environmental issues such as trade.

8. Conclusion

The complementary of the ASEAN-US economies is unique because of its interdependent nature of their economic relations. [sentence as published] Regardless of economic policy divergencies from time to time, the reality, however, reflects positive developments in many aspects particularly on trade.

Judging from the above, it is necessary for both the US and ASEAN to narrow the policy divergencies and other obstacles that impede trade relations. Indeed, at the third ASEAN Summit in December 1987, ASEAN reiterated its call on the developed countries to refrain from adopting measures that would hinder the access to market of commodities from the ASEAN region in their raw, semi-processed and processed forms, in line with the spirit of global trade liberalization.

Tape Association Head Discusses Pirating Issue

BK2505010891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 May 91 p B22

[Interview with Charoenchai Wungarayatham, president of the Thai Magnetic Tape and Record Association by Wina Thupkrachae and Sasithon Simaphon; place and date not given]

[Text] [NATION] Can you recall the past situation leading to the rampant copying of foreign cassette tapes and records?

[Charoenchai] In the past, there were no representatives of the copyright owners in Thailand because sales at that time were small. When a few authorized distributors were appointed, prices of original copies were so prohibitive that the average Thais could not afford them. Some local manufacturers, therefore, wished to serve the low-end market by importing the master tapes and copying them for sales in the country. Moreover, it was only in 1989 that the United States joined the Berne Convention on copyright protection which ended the longstanding controversy over whether the American works would be protected in full in Thailand. We have been engaged in this business long before that.

[NATION] How many authorized dealers of foreign companies have been appointed? And who are they?

[Charoenchai] The US claims that over 1,000 companies have worldwide agents. But in Thailand, only three companies, namely, EMI Thailand Co, CBS Thailand Co and WEA Records Co, have either formed representative offices or appointed local distributors. Without authorized distribution channels, what are we going to do? There is the demand in the market. Consumers want to listen to western music and they have no alternative but to look for cheap- priced cassette tapes.

[NATION] What has the association done to avert the situation or reduce the impact if the copyright law enforcement is to be strengthened, leading to a ban on pirated tapes?

[Charoenchai] Before the IFPI [International Federation of the Phonographic Industry] presses the police to take action against us, it should consider whether there was a means to set things right. The demand in the market has to be served, original tapes should be offered to the consuming public at affordable prices. I suggest that foreign copyright owners license their right to local producers by charging the cost of the master tapes plus a few percent of royalties charged either on the sales volume or fixed on an annual basis so that the local prices of the authorized products would not be too high. At present, an original tape may cost up to Bt100 [baht] while a copy tape costs only Bt25-30, although about 90 per cent of the original tapes are produced in the country.

[NATION] What is the progress of the talks with the IFPI?

[Charoenchai] This agency cannot help us acquire the copyrights legally from the original right holders. The local manufacturers have to contact foreign right owners on their own. However, no progress was made to negotiate with small pirates of cassette tapes because they are scattered around the country. I think we need two more years to clear stocks, abandon sales of unauthorized copies and give up the production of pirated tapes.

[NATION] What is your opinion on the major police raid on copy tape manufacturers?

[Charoenchai] The arrest is not going to solve the problem. It has to be solved at the right end. Moreover, those arrested are small traders. They are numbered at over 3,000 around the country. The IFPI should send their officials to talk with us to solve the problem together. To ban sales of copy products immediately would force them to bear the costs of the stock, a similar problem faced by more than 100 manufacturers.

[NATION] What do you think will be the consequences of a failure in the negotiation with the IFPI?

[Charoenchai] If our requests were turned down and the negotiations fail, we will not be able to prevent any move of individual members or groups of members. We need to strike a compromise; otherwise the problem cannot be solved. The authorities do not lend assistance at all. They do not recommend any guideline to cope with this problem. We may propose to the Commerce Ministry a set of regulations governing the setting up of companies, authorized dealers and price control.

Department May Set Up Copyright Contract Center

BK2905083391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 91 p 17

[Text] The Commerical Registration Department [CRD] may set up an information centre to help Thai tape producers arrange contracts with foreign copyright holders.

The move is being considered following a request from the Thai Magnetic Tape and Record Association (TMTRA).

CRD specialist Yanyong Phuangrat said yesterday the centre would help Thai tape producers by collecting music lists and copyright fees.

Mr Yanyong said the TMTRA, which represents Thai audio cassette producers, asked the department to set up the centre after complaining that Thai tape producers were unable to apply directly to all foreign production companies to become agents.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) also agreed the Thai Government should coordinate the provision of information to Thai poroducers, because the IFPI is only an enforcement arm of foreign tape manufacturers.

The proposal to set up the centre is expected to be tabled before the working group handling intellectual property enforcement problems with the United States.

Its chairman, Commerce Permanent Deputy Secretary Kroekkrai Chiraphaet said it is likely the proposal will be approved by the group which would appoint coordinators to work with both sides.

"In fact, the information centre should be under the responsibility of the Fine Arts Department of the Education Ministry but the department doesn't have sufficient staff. The Commerce Ministry, which is already concerned with copyright problems, will operate the centre."

Mr Yangyong said although the two sides are still unable to seek a compromise on the issue there is a chance to settle the dispute and the department will try to play a key role in this.

He said the IFPI's director in Thailand, Thianchai Pinwiset, is drafting an agreement as a guideline for the two sides to resolve the dispute.

Under the IFPI proposal, Thai tape producers would stop their activities immediately after settlement is reached, and the IFPI would give them six months to clear their stocks gradually.

Mr Yanyong hopes progress in Thai copyright enforcement will ease the pressure on the US to impose trade sanctions under the Special Section 301 of the Trade Act against Thailand, which has been listed as a priority for trade action.

"I believe the US will be satisfied with our progress in solving the problem," Mr Yanyong said.

University Students Protest Patent Change

BK2905023891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 91 p 6

[Text] University students have begun a campaign to protest against the Government's move to amend the patent law.

Distributing leaflets in front of Mah Boonkrong Department Store yesterday, they aim to tell the public what the law change will mean.

The students claim the Anan Panyarachun interim government is not entitled to decide an issue which will have far reaching repercussions for Thailand.

A group representing the Students' Federation of Thailand [SFT] and the Pharmaceutical Students Union distributed leaflets and held banners to show their opposition to the move.

SFT Secretary-General Prinya Thewanarumitkun asked for the interim government to leave the decision for an elected government. The interim administration should open the issue to public scrutiny because any law change to protect foreign pharmaceutical producers could have a long-term impact on most Thais, who are poor.

It will lead to a monopoly on pharmaceutical products, make the products more expensive and disrupt progress in development of the Thai pharmaceutical industry, he said.

Although the amended law will cover only newly invented drugs, medical and drug technology has been developing continuously and new inventions are needed to combat infections which develop resistance and new threats such as AIDS, he said.

He accused Premier Anan of being concerned only about trade and the possible impact US trade retaliation could have on a small group of exporters.

Following an SFT discussion on May 17, Prinya said the Premier lacked information on the issue and claimed that more than 40 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Norway and the USSR, refused to enact a law protecting the patents of foreign drug manufacturers.

The Premier thinks Thailand will have to give patent protection to pharmaceutical products to be in line with the outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade talks, but doing so now could disadvantage the country, he added.

Prinya demanded that the Government set up a committee to study the amendment's possible impact and that a general election be held as soon as possible so a legitimate government can consider the matter.

Cabinet on Zoning Changes in Telephone Project

BK2805024791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 91 p 13

[By Saman Sudto, Amphawan Buranaphonchai]

[Text] Cabinet yesterday decided to divide the metropolitan area under the controversial telephone project into zones in a move to break the concessionaire's monopoly of the telephone service.

A Cabinet source said a four-man committee, led by Transport and Communications Minister Nukun Prachuapmo, was assigned to hold talks with CP [Charoen Phokkhaphan] Telecom Co, which won the concession to develop the project.

The committee was instructed by Cabinet to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible, so the results could be tabled for final Cabinet approval early next month, the source said.

But an informed source in the CP Group said talks on the plan to divide the metropolitan area into zones were not likely to be concluded easily as CP Group chairman Thanin Chiarayanon strongly opposed the move.

The telephone project was raised at a Cabinet meeting yesterday after the regular agenda and Cabinet spent two hours discussing the issue, according to the Cabinet source.

After a wide discussion, it was concluded the two-million-line phone expansion in the metropolitan area must not be monopolised by any concessionaire, and it would be divided into a number of area zones.

"However, the Cabinet viewed that as CP Telecom had won the bidding for the concession since the very beginning, the Government should hold talks with it and give it a chance to propose what it will handle with each zone," the source said.

The source said if CP Telecom could propose to the Government an effective plan to implement all project zones without monopolising the service, the Government would approve it.

But the source said Cabinet did not discuss what the Government would do if CP Telecom failed to propose a plan to break the monopoly.

The one-million-line telephone project in the provinces and revenue sharing were not raised at the Cabinet discussion, he said.

Other members in the Nukun-led committee were Prime Minister's Secretary General Sathaphon Kawitanon, Army

Assistant Chief-of-Staff Gen Chatchom Kanlong and Deputy Transport and Communications Minister Gen Wirot Saengsanit.

The CP Group source, meanwhile, said the plan to divide the metropolitan area into zones was initiated by Mr Nukun during recent talks with Mr Thanin.

The source said the talks between Mr Nukun and Mr Thanin at Mr Nukun's residence were organised by Bangkok Bank president Chatri Sophonphanit.

At their meeting, Mr Nukun reportedly said he wanted the metropolitan areas under the project to be divided into a number of zones, and the concessions for a certain number of zones would be granted to other investors so the telephone service in Bangkok and its outskirts would not be monopolised by a single developer.

But the source said Mr Nukun's proposal was not acceptable to Mr Thanin.

Mr Thanin reportedly told Mr Nukun he would be willing to drop the development of the telephone services in the provinces, but insisted the whole metropolitan service must be developed by CP Telecom alone.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Anat Aphaphirom said after the Cabinet meeting that it was agreed there would be no more conflict among governmental authorities over the telephone project.

He said although there were a number of Cabinet members who had been involved, in various forms, with the CP Group, Cabinet's decision was based on the country's interests.

Vietnam

Cooperation With USSR in Sea Products on Rise

BK2805113791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 23 May 91

[Article by Kim Lien on growing cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in maritime products]

[Summary from poor reception] "Cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in maritime products began in the 1960's. The main objective of the cooperation during that period was Soviet material and technical assistance to the Vietnamese maritime products sector. The Soviet state helped Vietnam build many fishing boats, cold storage facilities, and fishing piers, and helped pay for other expenses to develop its fishery industry.

"In recent years, cooperation between the two countries in this domain has developed considerably. Since 1979, Soviet scientific research vessels have worked in Vietnamese territorial waters. Meanwhile, Soviet ichthyologists have assisted our maritime products sector in the research of biological resources in various sea areas, as well as in the manufacture of modern equipment for the exploitation of fish and other maritime products."

In the common process of renovating the economic structure and relations between the two countries, cooperation in the maritime products sectors has also undergone some changes. In June 1988 the first Soviet-Vietnamese joint enterprise came into being under the name (SEA-PRISEACO).

"Through a few years of operation, the enterprise has developed numerous forms of joint ventures, such as raising shrimp in brackish water and tapping abundant sources of aquatic products in the Mekong River Delta. Apart from this, the enterprise has cooperated with the Soviet national maritime transport corporation and the Dong Won Fisheries Co., Ltd. corporation of South Korea in the exploitation, processing, and marketing of fish. Recently, the enterprise has expanded its relations with Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and many other countries."

Joint Publishing Conference With USSR Opens

BK2705015091 Hanoi VNA in English 1349 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 26—The 11th Conference of the Joint Working Group of the Vietnamese-Soviet Commission for Cooperation in Publishing, Press, Printing and Book Distribution was opened here this morning.

Present, on the Vietnamese side, were Tran Hoan, minister of culture, information, sports and tourism, Phan Hien, deputy minister and president of the Vietnamese group. On the Soviet side were M. Nenashev, chairman of the Committee for Publishing and Press of the U.S.S.R and president of the Soviet group.

Charge D'affaires A.I. A. Voronin and counsellor A. Levin of the Soviet Embassy here also attended.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Tran Hoan highlighted the effective cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the fields of publishing, press, printing and book distribution over the past years, which, he said, reflected the traditional friendship and close solidarity between the parties and states of the two countries. The volume of books and newspapers published and exchanged between the two countries constantly increased, especially in the 80's, he added.

Minister Tra Hoan expressed thanks to the Soviet Union for its effective assistance in publishing, including the aid project of the extention of the Tran Phu Printing Factory, the first stage of which has been completed for training Vietnamese personnel and creating favourable conditions for Vietnam to participate in international conferences, regular book fairs in Moscow.

Protocol on Joint SRV-Cambodian Railway Signed

BK2905081591 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 29—A protocol on cooperation between the railway services of Vietnam and Cambodia was signed in Phnom Penh on May 25 at the end of the visit by a Vietnam railway delegation led by Doan Van Xe, vice minister of communications, transport and post and general director of the Vietnam General Department of Railways.

The protocol provides, among other things, for cooperation in imports and exports transport and the building of a rail line from Loc Ninh (Vietnam) to Phnom Penh.

Le Quang Dao Met Indian President, Mrs. Gandhi

BK2805153791 Hanoi VNA in English 1400 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 28—Indian President R. Venkataraman on May 25 received Le Quang Dao, vice president of the State Council, chairman of the National Assembly and head of the Vietnamese party and state delegation to attend the funeral of former prime minister and president of the Congress Party (I) Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi.

The Indian president evoked fine memories of his official friendship visit to Vietnam last April and expressed his belief that the relations between India and Vietnam will further be consolidated and developed.

Also on May 25, the delegation called on Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and conveyed to her the deep condolences from party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and other Vietnamese party and state leaders.

The previous day, after attending the funeral and cremation ceremony of Rajiv Gandhi, the delegation visited the Nehru Museum. The delegation returned home today.

Visiting Canadian Delegation on Cambodia Issue

BK2505151391 Hanoi VNA in English 1312 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—A delegation of the Canadian Foreign Ministry led by Ambassador Alan Sullivan, co-chairman of Committee 1 (on international supervision and control) of the Paris international conference on Cambodia, paid a visit to Vietnam from May 23-25.

With him were officers of the Canadian Defence Ministry.

While here, the delegation was received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

The guests had working sessions with Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and head of the External Relations Department of the National Defence Ministry Major General Vu Xuan Vinh, on how to accelerate the seeking for a solution to the Cambodia issue.

The two sides also exchanged views on the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Canada.

The delegation left here this afternoon.

EC Gives Loan Approval for Training Program

BK2705072191 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 27—The Vietnam Bank for Agriculture has received the first approval for loans to farmers, fishermen, and small industries under the Eurogpean Community programme for the repatriation and reintegration of asylum seekers in Vietnam. Most of the funds available will go to enterprises able to provide new jobs for the unemployed as well as for returning boat people. The first allocation of credit, made by the EC programme as a grant- based revolving fund, will create 3,500 jobs in the coming two months in Haiphong, Quang Ninh, and Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr John Pilgrim, EC programme director, said here that the aim of the programme was to provide jobs for the unemployed and to create good economic conditions in areas from which migrations had been taking place. "Bank credit is one of the quickest and the most effective ways in which we can provide people with work and good livelihoods," he added.

He further revealed that investments to be made under the programme will include agriculture, rice farming, carpentry and boat building, ceramics, tailoring and transport businesses. EC is also assisting in providing language, computer, and professional training courses. The credit programme is expected to create 3,500 jobs in the next two months and 12,000 jobs altogether in the next six months.

UN Counsellor Addresses Council on Rights

BK2705141591 Hanoi VNA in English 1247 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 27—"The fact that Vietnam has so far ratified eight international instruments on human rights is a demonstration of her endeavour and commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights", declared Ms. Dinh Thi Minh Huyen, counsellor of the Vietnamese Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Addressing the spring session of the UN Economic and Social Council at the UN Headquarters in New York recently, the Vietnamese diplomat pointed out: "Since 1986, Vietnam has been going through a process of renovation in all felds and a process of strengthening national laws has been under way. All these are aimed at developing a more humane and democratic society whose main objective is to create conditions for all citizens to fully realize their economic, social and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights". She reaffirmed that progress in economic and social development constitutes an indispensable prerequisite for ensuring human rights.

Ms. Dinh Thi Minh Huyen went on: "A strategy to stabilise and promote economic and social development in Vietnam by the year 2000 has been drafted and will soon be adopted. One of its main objectives is to meet the basic needs and to improve the material, cultural and spiritual life of the entire people".

After dealing with the violations of human rights in many parts of the world, she expressed the regret that despite the existence of the convention on the prevention and punishmant of the crime of genocide, the perpetrators of the heinous crimes of genocide in Cambodia have not yet been mentioned or condemned in any UN resolutions or decisions, including those of the commission on human rights and Ecosoc.

Export Market Seminar Held in Ho Chi Minh City

BK2905075791 Hanoi VNA in English 0608 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 29—A five-day seminar on export market was opened in Ho Chi Minh City Monday under the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Commerce and the Australian Embassy in Vietnam.

Participating in the seminar are representatives of 20 companies exporters to Australia.

Australian experts briefed the participants about the current situation of the international and Australian markets and a wide range of relevant problems such as quality control, packaging and trademarks.

Article Stresses Need for Socialist Construction

Part One

BK2405145991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 May 91

[Article by Khong Doan Hoi: "There Can Be No Other Political Orientation"]

[Text] Faced with the current crisis in socialist countries, some people have advised our party and people to shelve socialist construction in their new platform. According to them, the choice of that socialist objective is the main cause of the crisis in our country. The choice was a mistake because we have not understood what we have been building thus far, and such a thing has never, in fact, existed. All that we have considered as socialism is now disintegrating and collapsing in the eyes of the people throughout the world. According to them, the choice is all the more a mistake with respect to our country, a country that has at most a political premise and not an objective economic premise.

People have the right to think what they like. However, concerning an important issue that decides the destiny of the country and people at the turning point of their development, such an idea cannot be ignored. Also proceeding from this basic issue, we can see the necessity of having a platform to build the country at this moment, a platform that will be certainly supplemented and developed a great deal in the process of its implementation. Moreover, this platform enables us to see the core that we should have, which is definitely a clear political orientation, and the settlement of all affairs of the country along that political orientation.

With such a conception, the only petition that we must make now is to have an action program aimed at extricating the country from the crisis, and it is still too early and far-fetched to establish a platform now. I, for one, think that although that petition is essential, it is inadequate and does not promise any solution to meet the fundamental and long-term interests of our people because there are several ways to get out of the crisis.

Capitalism also has its own way to get out of a crisis, which is to make the laboring people bear the brunt of the crisis. Its way to deal with inflation is the same. Very few people think that our state has also done the same thing. Yet, why can we not do so? Once again, the political orientation has stood out like a compass needle.

Realities show that our country is not without views that in fact advocate market-oriented socialism—a type of socialism that borrows intact all the measures to resolve socioeconomic problems in keeping with the mechanisms of the capitalist market—which means that a political orientation is inevitable, either we do or don't want it and either we do or don't mention it. Suppose that their advice of shelving the objective of socialist construction is a petition full of good will. In such a case the laboring people in our country wil ask: Toward where, then, is our destiny oriented? If not socialism, then what type of politics can respect and firmly defend human rights from the social standpoint?

Is it that thus far we have not at all understood the socialist orientation of our people, or is this orientation something that, in fact, does not exist, or if it does exist is it disintegrating and collapsing?

It is true that we have not had the viewpoints available to make relative preparations for the various aspects of organizing a new society. We do not know and cannot know the stages and practical measures to reach the noble objective that is socialism. Even the founders of Marxism-Leninism have said so. Yet, does it mean that we have never visualized a future society and that we do not know anything about it, or if we do can it be merely a far-fetched dream?

No, it is not so. Through materialist dialectics we have known the evolution of history when mankind took the capitalist step. The goals and basic characteristics of the socialist regime would substitute capitalism as the negation of a negation. The history of building successive socialist regimes has always stated so. What we have inherited from and followed in the legacy of Marxist-Leninist founders is the method and point of departure for research. This has helped us understand that the beginning point of socialism is to win the administration over for the people, and its ending point is to achieve the leap of mankind from the kingdom of inevitability to the kingdom of freedom.

Although a long chain of unknowns is ahead of socialism—obviously this must be so, and these unknowns will be the origins of genuine science—following the inherent Marxist method, we have established the fundamental concepts of socialism. If capitalism is private ownership and unjust exploitation, then socialism must be the control of society in terms of production means, and owing to such a basis, humanitarianism can be accomplished completely. This is not imagination but a grasp of the evolutionary trends of history and contradictions in the development of production forces. The problem of production relations is settled not in the direction of privatization, but is solved strictly from one era to another along the line of possessing the society. As a result, a perfect socialism must be linked

closely to the socialist regime owning the means of production, and the question of when it is possible and necessary to completely eliminate ownership is a different story.

As a result, waiting until adequate concepts about socialism can be secured before setting the goal of socialist construction is an issue that never exists in reality. History evolves by its law, regardless of whether or not man can correctly and completely recognize the evolution. Who can affirm that he has thoroughly known capitalism? Yet, capitalism has always existed and has been developing for four centuries now.

A genuine socialist is not like the theologians of the Middle Ages who only knew how to wait and quote the Bible.

Part Two

BK2505082691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Last part of article by Khong Doan Hoi: "There Can Be No Other Political Orientation"]

[Text] While the development of capitalism stemmed from the evolution of the ownership system, socialism has no historical precedents. For this reason, the past 70 years is a period of seeking a correct path toward the final goal of socialism and as a result mistakes are unavoidable. History will, of course, forgive the founder generations who might commit mistakes in their attempt to seek a final goal for socialism. It is impossible to wait for the success of socialism by doing nothing.

We should admit that the crisis being faced by socialism is real. However, it was not because of our mistake in selecting objectives. It was more likely, nevertheless, that mistakes were caused by men who made decisions not compatible with the objective law. In fact, the cause of socialism's current crisis was the application of incorrect measures to resolve correct objectives. However, it is not fair to say that socialism only made mistakes. Actually, socialism, during the past period, attained great achievements while making some mistakes. Why should we not call it a success when socialism could help mankind from the scourge of fascism? Why do we not accord credit to socialism when it could help a country regarded as the most backward in Europe to recover from its unprecedented destruction, particularly when that country could even surge forward to become a superpower that had a final say in protecting mankind from the danger of a nuclear war? One may ask what kind of achievements can be attained by peoples in countries taking the socialist path? We may refer to a Polish writer's article published in the U.S. paper [words indistinct] describing workers of the former German Democratic Republic as flocking to a big square to demand the unification of the country. Now these workers gathered again at the same square to beg for jobs. It is obvious that these people now realize that they just rejected things they disliked in the past but failed to know things they really needed. They now realize that they were led by a deliberatedly planned trend and that they have lost something in life. As a result, only by applying practical measures will we be able to overcome crises. We cannot say that socialism has achieved nothing for us at all.

In our country, we advance toward socialism from a small—or in Lenin's words very, very small—agricultural country. We may ask is this the condition that caused socioeconomic crisis for us and prevented our country from becoming one of the prosperous nations? It is noteworthy to say here that 70 years ago there was the same question placed against Soviet Communists and Lenin. (Zukanov) accused Lenin of implementing socialism at a stage lacking an objective economic prerequisite. Lenin shot back that these people understood nothing about Marxism and that it was impossible to separate economic prerequisite from that of the political one especially in the era of the imperialist war, and that the general development law of world history carried forms and nature of such development. Lenin even questioned: why should we not begin to create prerequisites in our country such as a political prerequisite to advance toward socialism to build an economic prerequisite? Is there any book that denied the development of such change in history?

We must, however, admit that the implementation of socialism in our country is very difficult, but it does not mean that we have no ability to do so, and that it is not because of this difficulty that influenced us to turn to capitalism or a similar social system.

It is necessary to say that our ability to build socialism depends on the integration of the strength of the nation and that of the era, including the expansion of cooperation with the developed nations. We have changed the concept of confrontation with countries having different political system. However, we are not convinced that once we take a different social system, especially capitalism, we will be able to rapidly become a prosperous nation.

Although capitalism is still developing and needs adjustment for its survival, its nature remains the same. As a result, we should not provide unpaid service for capitalism. We should not appraise the success of capitalism through the existence of huge industrial centers, but we should have a thorough look at these centers and the backward rural areas as well. We must put into consideration what capitalism has provided to all people under its system, and not merely to a group of lucky people who live in luxurious houses. Is it not true that, after almost 400 years of development, reference made to the capitalist world implied only the United States and Japan? The true nature of capitalism, past and present, cannot be separated from exploitation, cruelty, immorality, and oppression of mankind. Capitalism will exist along with the poverty of billions of people, with an increasingly social contradiction between the neocolonialist south and the prosperous north, with the condition that one-fourth of the world population consume three-fourths of the world production output, and with 40 million people who died of hunger annually in developing countries and so forth.

If we do not want to see our people's willpower and aspirations trampled, and the workers deprived of their

social rights, then we should not formulate orientations toward any other systems rather than toward socialism.

Nguyen Van Linh's Letter to Teenagers

BK2805051291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 May 91

["Text" of General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's speech at the Hanoi 25 May ceremony to mark 50th founding anniversary of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenagers Unit—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear nieces and nephews, I am very pleased to hear that on the occasion of the 50th founding anniversary of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenagers Unit [HCMVTU], you have enthusiastically participated in an emulation drive organized by the HCMVTU Central Committee and the THIEU NIEN TIEN PHONG [Vanguard Teenagers] journal to mark the occasion. In many localities, the emulation drive to score achievements to mark the occasion has become a lively activity in teenagers' daily lives. It has helped strengthen education for children and enhanced the pride and traditional role of generations of Vietnamese teenagers who have contributed greatly to the revolutionary cause and to national construction and defense under the leadership of the party and esteemed Uncle Ho.

I am also pleased to note that, through this emulation drive, you have shown your ability to do good jobs, knew how to distinguish right from wrong, participated enthusiatically in campaigns organized by your unit, and strove to become good nieces and nephews of Uncle Ho—a campaign being launched throughout the country.

I hope that the HCMVTU and the THIEU NIEN TIEN PHONG journal will organize more lively emulation drives to provide you with more chances to participate in activities. In the recent days, the THIEU NIEN TIEN PHONG journal has improved its quality remarkably. On the occasion of the upcoming 37th founding anniversary of the journal, 1 June 1954 to 1 June 1991, I hope that the journal will strive to further improve its contents to meet the aspirations and demands of its readers and teenagers throughout the country.

Dear nieces and nephews, on the occasion of your coming summer holiday and in commemoration of the International Children Day, 1 June, I hope that you all will enjoy your holidays.

I would like to mention here that our party will hold its seventh national congress soon, and I hope that with your unit's fine tradition, you will engage in concretely useful work to welcome this historic event of our nation.

On this auspicious occasion, I also hope that echelons of the party committees, administration, and mass organizations throughout the country will pay close attention to creating favorable conditions for our teenagers to advance further in their educational and social activities.

I hope that all nieces and nephews, right at this moment, will strive to study harder and enhance good morals to maintain quality as obedient children of Vietnamese families and good citizens of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. You should also work harder to become competent students who can maintain the quality of unselfishness and who can effectively engage in productive labor to contribute to building a prosperous Vietnam. Only by fulfilling this task will you be able to claim that you are masters and builders of the socialist fatherland along the path chosen by Uncle Ho.

On behald of the party and the state, I wish the HCMVTU ever greater achievements and success in maintaining its quality as commended by the party as one of the units that has always strictly implemented Uncle Ho's teachings and carried out good work for the fatherland.

Vo Chi Cong on Flood-Typhoon Control Day

BK2505140191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] On the occasion marking Vietnam's flood and typhoon control day, 22 May 1946-22 May 1991, Chairman of the Council of State Vo Chi Cong has sent a letter to the people, cadres, combatants, workers, civil servants, and all echelons and sectors. The following is the full text of the letter.

Dear compatriots and comrades, on the occasion of Vietnam's flood and typhoon control day, 22 May 1946-22 May 1991, and the 45th founding anniversary of the central dike protection committee: predecessor of the central flood and typhoon control committee, on behalf of the party and state, I would like to extend my kind regards and warm greetings to all of our people, cadres, combatants, workers, and civil servants, as well as to all echelons and sectors nationwide, who have worked and are working on the front of flood and typhoon control in our country.

Throughout the past 45 years, you have always remained ready to engage in the task of controlling natural disasters, especially typhoons and floods, and have recorded many great achievements. All echelons, sectors, and localities have paid attention to protective dikes, repairing, fortifying, and expanding dikes, and culvert systems throughout the country. Thanks to this, dike break conditions have been alleviated and the extent of losses caused by natural disasters has been limited.

This year, to realistically mark Vietnam's flood and typhoon control day and to respond positively to the international decade for natural disaster control, efforts have been exerted by our people, cadres, and combatants to complete the repair and fortification of almost all major dike systems ahead of schedule.

On this occasion, I would like to warmly commend our people, cadres, workers, and civil servants for their great efforts and achievements in the fortification of dikes and control of floods, typhoons, and other natural disasters.

I also would like to warmly commend our compatriots abroad for their constant attention to and support for the control of natural disasters in their homeland.

Dear compatriots and comrades, to build a prosperous and powerful socialist Vietnamese fatherland and to bring about an abundant, free, and happy life for the people as esteemed President Ho Chi Minh wished, let us always remember and follow his teaching that the task of fortifying dikes and controlling floods and typhoons is an undertaking of our entire party, people, and Armed Forces.

All of our people, be they old or young and male or female, are duty-bound to take part in guarding dikes from being flooded. I hope that, together with the people throughout the country, all party organization and administrative echelons and mass and social organizations will pay greater attention to building and strenghtening the forces responsible for the control of natural disasters at all levels and in all sectors and establishments. This is aimed at making it possible for them to readily and effectively meet with natural disasters under all circumstances in the first year of the international decade for natural disater control in our country.

Let our people, cadres, combatants, workers, civil servants, and flood and typhoon control committees at all levels and in all sectors exert efforts and closely unite and coordinate with each other in the struggle to outstandingly fulfill their glorious duty, thereby scoring practical achievements in honor of the seventh congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations.
[Signed] Vo Chi Cong.

Government Promulgates Civil Contracts Regulation

BK2605124591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] The office of the National Assembly and the Council of State and the Ministry of Justice recently held a news conference to introduce the contents of the regulation on civil contracts which was adopted by the Council of State on 29 April 1991.

Comrade Phan Hien, minister of justice, briefed newsmen on key contents of the regulation. He said that it is necessary to have the regulation because the implementation of renovation in the economic and management mechanism during the past period has resulted in diversified forms of civil contracts involving joint ventures and economic activities of individuals and economic units of various components. Generally speaking, many civil contracts were carried out in accordance with the law. Violations to rules and regulations, however, are still prevalent and these include illegal business transactions, the transportation of prohibited goods, illegal trading, misuse of credits, usurpation of capital, and setback in debt payments and so forth. One of the reasons leading to this negative practice was due to a number of indecisive measures and unclear rules and regulations used under the state subsidies system.

The regulation on civil contracts is composed of 59 articles in six chapters. Chapter one is a general clause. Chapter two deals with the implementation, revision, and cessation of civil contracts; as well as the procedure for establishing, implementing, and cancelling civil contracts. Chapter three deals with measures to ensure the implementation of civil contracts which include issues related to the description of the nature of contracts and procedures for mortgages, indemnity, and down payments. Chapter four deals with measures against the violation of civil contracts. Chapter five deals with [word indistinct] and suing, and chapter six is the final clause.

Job Training Given to Voluntary Repatriates

BK2705091491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] To create favorable conditions for illegal emigrants who have voluntarily repatriated to get steady jobs and stabilize their lives, Hanoi has accepted 45 batches of returnees totalling 254 people, more than 90 percent of whom now live in four urban precincts. Sixty percent of the returnees are of working age, but most have not received any vocational training. Hanoi has opened job training courses lasting from three to six months, offering training in popular trades such as dressmaking, and motorcycle, television, and refrigeration equipment repair. To date, 42 returnees have completed training and been able to normalize their lives.

Australia

'No Information' on Former Iraqi Envoy Location

BK2905031091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0253 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Canberra, May 29 (AFP)—The Iraqi Embassy here refused to comment Wednesday on reports that the former ambassador to Australia, 'Afif 'Isa al-rawi, had been condemned to death for high treason in Baghdad.

"Our policy is to say nothing about this," an embassy spokesman replied to a question about reports from Canada that Mr. Al-rawi and two other senior officials were sentenced last week.

The reports quoted Iraq's former planning minister, Jawad Hashim, who was speaking from London to reporters in Ottawa.

Mr. Hashim said he, Mr. Al-rawi and Muhammad Almashat, former Iraqi ambassador to the United States, had been accused of collaborating with the intelligence services of Britain, Canada and the United States.

A spokesman for the department of foreign affairs here said Wednesday that the Australian Government had had "no contact with and no information about Mr. Al-rawi's whereabouts" since he left the country on January 4.

Mr. Al-rawi left Sydney on Qantas scheduled flight QF31 which ends at Singapore.

The spokesman said it was not known where Mr. Al-rawi went after that, but said the ambassador left Australia in normal circumstances.

"He had finished his stint as ambassador, and after he left the Iraqi government brought the embassy's representation down from ambassadorial level to that of charge d'affaires," the spokesman said.

"Mr. Al-rawi went through all the motions. He made his farewell calls and several other ambassadors gave leaving parties for him.

"He maintained his role of pushing Iraq and defending Iraq's position right up to the time he left. He maintained his support for Saddam Husayn and defended Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," he said.

Australia could not discover through normal diplomatic channels whether Mr. Al-rawi was in Baghdad, since it has withdrawn its diplomatic staff from the Iraqi capital, the spokesman said.

The embassy remains officially open.

Fiji

Government Passes Antiunion Measures

BK2905092191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Suva, May 29 (AFP)—Farmers and trade unionists who interfere with Fiji's sugar harvest face up to 14 years' jail under a decree issued by the military-backed government Wednesday.

The decree came 24 hours after the state-run sugar mills failed to start crushing operations because a farmers' boycott has delayed the harvest.

Those convicted of interfering with the harvest are also liable to be fined the equivalent of 7,100 U.S. dollars, while anyone found counselling, inviting or encouraging others to "hinder the orderly production of sugar" may be fined 3,500 U.S. dollars and jailed for seven years.

A second measure, the protection of the national economy decree 1991, provides similar penalties for people convicted of hindering other economic activities.

These include tourism, transport, telecommunications, civil aviation, electricity and the mining industry, currently wracked by a long strike at the Australian-run Emperor gold mines on the west coast.

Deputy Premier Josevata Kamikamica said the Sugar Industry Act (Special Protection) Amendment decree was designed to curb activities "that will harm or (are) likely to cause harm to the national economy of Fiji."

Mr. Kamikamica, acting head of government while Prime Minister Sir Ratu Kamisese Mara is visiting New Zealand, said, "the government does not wish to force farmers to harvest their cane but it will offer protection to those who would wish to have their cane harvested."

Mr. Kamikamica said he hoped the decrees would be "a sufficient deterrent and that government would not be forced to use other emergency regulations."

Both decrees also apply to Fijians abroad and to foreigners in Fiji.

Mr. Kamikamica accused "some trade unionists who are bent on destroying the livelihood of thousands of farmers and workers to achieve their own political ends."

The sugar cutting boycott is organised by a prominent unionist, Mahendra Chaudhry, finance minister in the government headed by the late Timoci Bavadra which was ousted by the Army in 1987.

Mr. Chaudhry's National Farmers Union is demanding an extra 8.74 Fiji dollars (6.1 U.S.) per tonne in payments for the 1990 crop and wants the government to allow local growers' council elections to be held before the harvest starts.

Fiji's number one commodity export, sugar earned 244 million Fiji dollars (171 million U.S.) on sales of 400,000 tonnes to Britain, China, Malaysia, and the United States in 1990.